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PASSENGER AND CREW LISTS OF VESSELS (MARCH 1931–MARCH 1957) AND AIRPLANES
(DECEMBER 1954–MARCH 1957) ARRIVING AT BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS

Introduction

On the 25 rolls of this microfilm publication, M1774, are reproduced passenger and crew lists of vessels (March 24, 1931–March 31, 1957) and airplanes (December 1, 1954–March 31, 1957) arriving at Brownsville, Texas. Both U.S. citizens and aliens are included. Also included, for the 1950s, are lists of outbound passengers and some lists of arrivals at Port Arthur, Texas, and Port Isabel, Texas. 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 through designated 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.

Records Description

The records consist of passenger and crew lists of vessels (March 24, 1931–March 31, 1957) and airplanes (December 1954–March 31, 1957) arriving at Brownsville, Texas. Both U.S. citizens and aliens

are included. The vessel lists primarily consist of alien crewmen. Few passengers or U.S. crewmen are included. The airplane lists tend to be either passengers or crew, or both, and include both aliens and citizens. Also included, during the 1950s, are some lists of outbound passengers and some lists from vessel arrivals at Port Arthur, Texas, and Port Isabel, Texas. Some of the airplanes stopped at Brownsville, but their final destination was Houston, San Francisco, Los Angeles, or elsewhere.

The lists are arranged in chronological order, but there is occasionally minor disarrangement. For instance, there is minor disarrangement that causes overlap between rolls 19 and 20, as well as within roll 21.

The records consist of various INS forms. The most common forms are described below. Air passengers and crew, however, tend to be reported on airline-made forms or U.S. Customs Service forms instead of INS forms.

INS Form 680 (later known as Form I-480), ***List or Manifest of Aliens Employed on the Vessel as Members of Crew*** (or similar title), usually contains the names of vessels and shipmasters, ports of arrival and embarkation, dates of arrival, and the following information about each crew member: full name; position in ship's company; whether able to read; age; sex; race; nationality; height; weight; and physical marks or peculiarities. The "race" column indicates the crew member's ethnic background, such as Irish, German, or Polish. Also indicated are the date and place at which he was engaged for employment and whether he was to be paid off or discharged at the port of arrival. Although the primary purpose of this form was to record pertinent information about aliens, U.S. citizen crew members may be included on these lists. The I-480 generally indicates whether the immigration inspector admitted the crew member or detained him on board the vessel. If the alien had another identification document, such as a passport or declaration of intention to become a citizen ("first papers"), it may be noted in the "remarks" column.

INS Form 689 (later known as Form I-489), ***Statement of Master of Vessel Regarding Changes in Crew Prior to Departure***, sometimes accompanies the Form I-480. Form 689 indicates names and other information of any crewmen who (1) deserted, (2) were discharged, (3) were left in a hospital at the port of arrival, or (4) signed on at the port of arrival.

INS Form 630B, ***List of United States Citizens***, includes each person's name, age, sex, marital status, date and place of birth (if native) or date and court of naturalization (if naturalized), and U.S. address. The person's passport number and date of issuance may be noted in a convenient blank spot on the form.

INS Form I-415, ***Manifest of In-Bound Passengers (Aliens)***, includes the name of the ship, the port and date of embarkation, the port and date of arrival, and the following information about each alien: name, travel document number, citizenship ("nationality"), number and description of pieces of baggage, and a "column for use of masters, surgeon, and U.S. officials" which may contain the alien's "A-File" number, the section of the immigration law under which the alien was admitted to the U.S., and the country which issued the alien's passport and its date of expiration. As of 2001, 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.

INS Form I-416, ***List of In-Bound Passengers (United States Citizens and Nationals)***, includes the name of the ship, the port and date of embarkation, the port and date of arrival, and the following information about each person: U.S. passport number and place of birth, number and description of pieces of baggage, and a "column for use of master, surgeon, and U.S. officers" which is usually blank.

INS Form I-434, ***Manifest of Outward-Bound Passengers (Aliens)***, includes the person's name, age, and travel document numbers, such as a foreign passport and/or U.S. Visa.

INS Form I-435, *Manifest of Outward-Bound Passengers (United States Citizens and Nationals)*, includes the person's name, age, sex, U.S. passport number, date and place of birth (if native) or date and court of naturalization (if naturalized), country of destination, and intended length of time abroad.

U.S. Treasury Department Customs Form 7507, *General Declaration*, includes the airplane's owner or operator, pilot, aircraft number, flight number, dates and ports of departure and arrival, and time of arrival. Also included is the name, age, and sex of each crew member and the name, age, sex, and citizenship of each passenger.

CONTENTS

<u>Roll</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Mar. 24, 1931–July 5, 1945 (Old INS Roll 1)
2	July 3, 1945–June 18, 1946 (Old INS Roll 2) Note: Also contains arrivals on June 26, 1945, and July 2, 1945.
3	June 18, 1946–Nov. 1, 1946 (Old INS Roll 3)
4	Nov. 3, 1946–May 31, 1947 (Old INS Roll 4)
5	May 31, 1947–Oct. 27, 1947 (Old INS Roll 5)
6	Oct. 27, 1947–Apr. 24, 1948 (Old INS Roll 6)
7	Apr. 24, 1948–Aug. 25, 1948 (Old INS Roll 7)
8	Aug. 25, 1948–Mar. 30, 1949 (Old INS Roll 8) Note: Also contains arrivals on Aug. 23, 1948.
9	Mar. 30, 1949–Nov. 28, 1949 (Old INS Roll 9)
10	Nov. 28, 1949–Aug. 1, 1950 (Old INS Roll 10)
11	Aug. 2, 1950–May 7, 1951 (Old INS Roll 11)
12	May 9, 1951–Feb. 13, 1952 (Old INS Roll 12)
13	Feb. 18, 1952–Dec. 2, 1952 (Old INS Roll 13)
14	Dec. 2, 1952–Oct. 3, 1953 (Old INS Roll 14)
15	Oct. 11, 1953–July 13, 1954 (Old INS Roll 15)
16	July 14, 1954–Nov. 29, 1954 (Old INS Roll 16)
17	Dec. 1, 1954–Apr. 1, 1955 (Old INS Roll 1)
18	Apr. 1, 1955–July 31, 1955 (Old INS Roll 2)
19	Aug. 1, 1955–Nov. 27, 1955 (Old INS Roll 3)
20	Nov. 23, 1955–Feb. 24, 1956 (Old INS Roll 4) Original box label for this roll indicates that the arrival list for the ship <i>Irma Catalina</i> , Jan. 19, 1956, is on roll 6.
21	Feb. 24, 1956–Mar. 22, 1956 (Old INS roll 5) Feb. 2 and Mar. 2, 1956 (interfiled) Mar. 22, 1956–Apr. 23, 1956
22	Apr. 24, 1956–Aug. 4, 1956 (Old INS Roll 6)
23	Aug. 5, 1956–Nov. 10, 1956 (Old INS Roll 7)
24	July 3, 1956 (Old INS Roll 8) July 8, 1956 Nov. 11, 1956–Feb. 13, 1957
25	Feb. 14, 1957–Mar. 31, 1957 (Old INS Roll 9)