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STATISTICAL AND NONSTATISTICAL MANIFESTS OF ALIEN ARRIVALS AT BROWNSVILLE,
TEXAS, FEBRUARY 1905-JUNE 1953, AND RELATED INDEXES

Introduction

On the 40 rolls of this microfilm publication, M1502, are reproduced over 217,000 statistical and nonstatistical manifests of alien arrivals at Brownsville, Texas, February 1905-June 1953, and related statistical indexes, February 1905-March 1952. These records are arranged in four subseries: (1) Index to Statistical Manifests, February 1905-November 1929, interfiled with Nonstatistical Manifests, February 1905-November 1929; (2) Index to Statistical Manifests, December 1929-March 1952; (3) Statistical Manifests, February 1905-March 1952; and (4) Nonstatistical Manifests, December 1929-June 1953. 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 "ABFile." As of 1996, both Registry/Lawful Entry Files and ABFiles 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 the other land boundary.

These classes were revised in 1945 so that the statistics of arriving aliens at land border ports of entry for 1945B52 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. 48B52. 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 records included in this microfilm publication are arranged in four series: (1) Index to Statistical Manifests, February 1905BNovember 1929, interfiled with Nonstatistical Manifests, February 1905BNovember 1929; (2) Index to Statistical Manifests, December 1929BMarch 1952; (3) Statistical Manifests, February 1905BMarch 1952; and (4) Nonstatistical Manifests, December 1929BJune 1953.

Series 1, 2, and 4 are arranged alphabetically by surname, then by first name. 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." 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 those surnamed *Espinosa* might be filed among those named *Espinoza*. Series 3 is arranged chronologically by date of arrival and then by manifest number.

Series 1: Index to Statistical Manifests, February 1905BNovember 1929, interfiled with Nonstatistical Manifests, February 1905BNovember 1929

These records consist of over 80,000 index cards, primarily INS Forms 621 and Spl. 259, which are both *statistical* index cards, and Forms 629 and Spl. 442, which are *nonstatistical* cards. Also included are a few INS Forms Spl. 125, *Alien Laborer's Identification Card*, and the unnumbered *Alien Agricultural Laborer's Identification Card* (all described below under "Forms Used").

Nonstatistical and identification cards contain all available arrival data. Statistical index cards provide a date of admission and manifest number that enable the researcher to locate the alien's statistical manifest in Series 3, described below. The records are arranged alphabetically by name, but there is some disarrangement and overlap, such as that between rolls 5 and 6.

Many nonstatistical cards were rubber-stamped "LOCAL" on cards of residents of nearby Matamoros, Mexico, who entered the U.S. for business, shopping, or visiting.

Series 2: Index to Statistical Manifests, December 1929BMarch 1952

These records consists of over 30,000 typewritten index cards that typically include the alien's name, age, sex, date of admission, manifest number, last permanent foreign residence, and U.S. destination. Some cards list more than one alien of the same name. The date of admission and manifest number enable the researcher to locate the alien's statistical manifest in Series 3, described below.

A majority of the arrivals were citizens of Mexico; however, a large number of citizens of various European and South American countries, Japan, Palestine, Syria, Canada, and the Philippine Islands are also included.

Series 3: Statistical Manifests, February 1905BMarch 1952

This series consists of over 70,000 sheet or card manifests, INS Forms 548 or I-448 (described below under "Forms Used"). During February 1905BNovember 19, 1924, one sheet was used for each alien's arrival; for November 20, 1924BMarch 1952, one card was used for each alien's arrival. The records are arranged chronologically by date of arrival, then by manifest number. The chronological and numerical arrangement is frequently imperfect, and there are frequent gaps in the numerical arrangement due to missing manifests. In addition, "A-numbered" manifests from the period August 21, 1928 to June 30, 1944, are interspersed with plain numbered manifests. The February 1905BNovember 1929 manifests are indexed by Series 1, described above, and the December 1929BMarch 1952 manifests are indexed by Series 2, described above.

Series 4: Nonstatistical Manifests, February 1929BJune 1953

This series consists of over 110,000 card manifests, INS Forms 548, 548-B, or I-448, and INS

Form I-190, *Application for Nonresident Alien's Border Crossing Identification Card* (described below under "Forms Used"). One card is used for each alien's arrival. The records are arranged alphabetically by name.

Forms Used

Form 629, *Nonstatistical*, contains all available entry information, including the person's name, age, sex, marital status, race, occupation, ability to read and write, last place of residence, destination, and port and date of arrival. It also indicates the names of persons and amount of money accompanying the person.

Form Spl. 442, *nonstatistical*, includes the person's name, age, sex, marital status, race, occupation, ability to read and write, last place of residence, destination, and port and date of admission. It also indicates the names of persons and amount of money accompanying the person.

Form 621, *Statistical*, includes the person's name, age, sex, marital status ("conj. cond."), occupation, nationality, ability to read or write, last place of residence, future place of residence, date and place of admission to the U.S., place of birth, and height, complexion, hair color, eye color, and identifying marks. These cards also indicate who paid the immigrant's passage, the amount of money the person brought, and names of persons accompanying him or her. The manifest number in the upper right-hand corner of these cards is used, along with the date of arrival, to locate the person's manifest on rolls 12-23.

Form Spl. 259, *statistical*, includes only the person's name, age, sex, nationality, race, last place of residence, destination, date and port of arrival, and status as immigrant or nonimmigrant. The cards also provide a B.S.I. number (Board of Special Inquiry). Although a manifest (list) and line number are noted at the bottom of the card, the number that is annotated to the right of the person's sex is generally the "real" manifest number that is used, along with the date of arrival, to locate the person's manifest on rolls 12-23. Records of Boards of Special Inquiry, if such records still exist, remain (as of 1998) in the legal custody of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and researchers should direct a Freedom of Information Act request to that agency.

Form 548, 548-B, or 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 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, 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. Additional information may be recorded on the reverse side of the card if the alien appealed a decision barring him or her from entering the U.S.

Form I-190, *Application for Nonresident Alien's Border Crossing Identification Card*, includes the person's name, address, date and place of birth, sex, marital status, occupation, ability to read and write, nationality, weight, visible distinctive marks, and purpose for coming to the U.S. It also includes the color of the person's complexion, eyes, and hair, as well as the alien's signature and fingerprint or photograph. The number, date of issuance, and issuing authority of the alien's foreign passport or other identification card are noted. Also included are the border crossing identification card number and its date of issuance.

Form Spl. 125, *Alien Laborer's Identification Card*, includes the date and port of issuance of the card, card number, and the alien's name, age, marital status, height, physical marks, last residence, and whether able to read. It also includes the alien's photograph and destination, including employer, such as

"Arizona Cotton Growers Assn., Tempe, Arizona." It also includes this text:

The bearer, a native and citizen of Mexico, has this day been granted the privilege of temporarily entering the United States in accordance with and under the conditions of Department [of Labor] circular of June 12, 1918, as amended.

Alien Agricultural Laborer's Identification Card, an unnumbered form, includes the date and port of issuance of the card, card number, and the alien's name, height, "physical peculiarities," and photograph. The card includes this text on the front side:

The bearer [name], a citizen of [Mexico], has this day been granted the privilege of temporarily entering the United States, solely for the purpose of engaging in agricultural pursuits, pursuant to the authority contained in and under the conditions prescribed by U.S. Department of Labor circular, dated Washington, D.C., May 23rd, 1917.

It also includes this text on the reverse side:

The alien to whom this card is issued, must not engage in any other than agricultural pursuits; engagement in labor of any other character will render him liable to deportation. This privilege is granted and accepted with the understanding that in consideration of the alien's entry under the suspension of certain requirements of the Immigration Act, said privilege may be revoked at any time within the discretion of the Secretary of Labor, and the recipient of the privilege returned to the country whence he came.

General Remarks

The records were filmed by the INS in October 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.

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<u>New Roll No. (Old INS Roll No.)</u>	<u>Description</u>
1 (5)	Series 1: Index to Statistical Manifests, February 1905B November 1929, interfiled with Nonstatistical Manifests, February 1905BNovember 1929 Retakes Abad, Alberto B Castellanos, Concepcion
2 (6)	Castellanos, Daniel B Flores, Protasio
3 (7)	Flores, Rafael B Gonzales, Doroteo
4 (8)	Retakes Gonzales, Edelmiro B Juarez, Teresa
5 (9)	Retakes Juarez, Valentina B Mora, Clara
6 (10) (10A)	Martinez, Matias B Quiroga, Francisco Quiroga, Inez B Rangel, Isabel; followed by Rodriguez, Isidro
7 (11) (12)	Rangel, James B Silva, Julian Retakes

- (13)
9 (1) Silva, Leonor B Zavala, Guadalupe
Zavala, Isabel B Zurita, Odan
Series 2: Index to Statistical Manifests, December 1929B
March 1952
Retakes
Abad, A. B Garcia, Y.
- 10 (2) Retakes
Gardair, F. B Pery, R.
- 11 (3) Pesantes, A. B Yntlacquihauque, L.
(4) Yoder, T. B Zurita, M.

New Roll No. (Old INS Roll No.)

Date Span; Manifests

- 12 (14) Series 3: Statistical Manifests, February 1905B March 1952
Retakes
Feb. 11, 1905B May 22, 1908; 1A B15B (Note: Manifest numbers are annotated in upper right-hand corner along with other numbers, but legibility is poor; numbers run from 1 to 15 and are lettered A to B.)
May 26, 1908B May 31, 1908; 16A B33B
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July 4, 1908B June 30, 1909; 1B1204
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13 (15) June 15B29, 1910 951B1022
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June 4B6, 1911; 101B115
June 4B29, 1911; 1393B1488 [?]
July 1, 1911B Dec. 30, 1911; 1B12092 (On manifests 1165B1174, the initial "1" is missing; they read 165B174.)
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Jan. 1, 1912B Jan. 6, 1912; 1210B1249
14 (16) Jan. 7, 1912B June 30, 1912; 1250B2147
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July 3, 1913B Jan. 21, 1914; 1B293
15 (17) Jan. 23, 1914B June 29, 1914; 294B865
July 1, 1914B Mar. 15, 1915; 1B596
Mar. 22, 1915; 653B713
Mar. 15, 1915B Mar. 22, 1915; 597B652
Mar. 22, 1915B June 30, 1915; 714B1169
July 1, 1915B Feb. 17, 1916; 1B1438
16 (18) Feb. 18, 1916B June 28, 1916; 1439B2383
July 1, 1916B June 30, 1917; 1B2009
July 1, 1917B Sept. 30, 1917; 1B770
17 (19) Retakes
Oct. 1, 1917B Mar. 19, 1918; 771B3222
Long blank space
Mar. 19, 1918B June 29, 1918; 3223B4121
June 29, 1918; unnumbered

- July 1B3, 1918; 5B30
- 18 (20) Retakes
July 4, 1918BJune 30, 1919; 36B3422
- 19 (21) July 1, 1919BOct. 22, 1919; 1B1267
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July 1, 1920BJune 30, 1921; 1B1959
July 1, 1921BJuly 18, 1921; 1B91
- 20 (22) Retakes
July 18, 1921BJune 28, 1922; 92B1601
July 1, 1922BJune 29, 1923; 1B13512
July 2, 1923BMay 3, 1924; 1B1596
- 21 (23) May 3, 1924BJune 30, 1924; 1597B2093
July 1, 1924BNov. 19, 1924; 1B823
- 22 (24) Retakes (very long; includes Nov. 20, 1924BDec. 8, 1924,
Nos. 824B900)
Dec. 1, 1924BJune 30, 1925; 875B1908
July 1, 1925BJune 30, 1926; 1B1357
July 1, 1926BJune 30, 1927; 1B2957
July 1, 1927BJune 29, 1928; 1B3460
July 2, 1928BAug. 21, 1928; 1B1038
- 23 (25) Retakes
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July 1, 1929BJuly 1, 1930; 5B4036; also A94BA171
July 1, 1930BJuly 30, 1932; 1B672; also A1BA64
July 1, 1932BJune 30, 1933; 1B526; also A1BA76
July 3, 1933BJune 29, 1934; 1B599; also A1BA69
July 1, 1934BApr. 3, 1935 1B529; also A1BA82
- 24 (26) Apr. 3, 1935BJune 29, 1935; 530B742; also A83BA140
July 4, 1935BJune 30, 1936; 1B800; also A1BA219
July 1, 1936BJune 30, 1937; 1B994; also A1BA282A
July 1, 1937BJune 30, 1938 1B938; also A1BA302
July 1, 1938BJune 30, 1939; 1B975; also A1BA289
July 1, 1939BJune 29, 1940; 1B813; also A1BA522
July 11, 1940BJune 30, 1941; 1B819; also A1BA646
July 1, 1941BJan. 1, 1942; 1B648; also A1BA432
- 25 (27) Retakes
Dec. 23, 1941BJune 30, 1942; 649B990; also A433BA1012
July 2, 1942BJune 30, 1943; 1B501; also A1BA1153
July 2, 1943BJune 30, 1944; 1B512; also A1BA1470
July 1B31, 1944; A74BA1476, A37
Aug. 1B31, 1944; A28BA964
Sept. 1B30, 1944; A15BA963
Oct. 1B31, 1944; A14BA810
Nov. 1B30, 1944; A11BA724
Dec. 1, 1944BNov. 16, 1945; 1B2750
- 26 (28) Nov. 16, 1945BJune 29, 1947; 2751B7416
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July 4, 1949BJune 30, 1950; 1B523

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July 3, 1951BMar. 19, 1952; 1B427
Mar. 21, 1952; unnumbered

<u>New Roll No. (Old INS Roll No.)</u>	<u>Description</u>
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31 (33)	Elizondo, Beatrice B Garcia, Bruno Garcia, Calixto B Garza, Viviano
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35 (37)	Martinez, Macario B Ojeda, Mario
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37 (39)	Retakes Quintanilla, Ignacio B Romero, Hilda
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40 (42)	Retakes Vega, Elena B Zyranoff, Antonia