Immigrants Arriving at the Port of New York:
Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), 1897–1957

Beginning in 1891, the Federal bureaucracy that eventually became the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) assumed supervision of immigrants who arrived at the Port of New York through Ellis Island. An act of Congress on March 3, 1891, established the Office of Superintendent of Immigration in the Department of the Treasury, which assumed oversight of immigration matters previously administered by the U.S. Customs Service. This office became the Bureau of Immigration in 1895, and expanded to include oversight of naturalization issues in 1906. The Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization became the Immigration and Naturalization Service under the Department of Labor in 1933.

Microfilmed Records
___ T715, *Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, NY, 1897–1957*. 8,892 rolls. The manifests are organized chronologically by date of arrival and volume number. The lists typically include names of immigrants, foreigners, visitors, and U.S. citizens returning from abroad. In addition to a full description of each passenger that includes name, age, sex, marital status, occupation, last residence, port of arrival, and final destination in the United States, the manifests contain the names of vessels and shipmasters, ports of embarkation and arrival, and dates of arrival. They also indicate if a passenger had been in the United States previously, and if so, when and where. If the passenger intended to join a relative, the manifest lists the relative's name and address, and relationship. After 1903, the manifests indicated race; in 1906 they added personal descriptions and place of birth; and in 1907, the name and address of an immigrant's nearest relative in their country of origin.

Indexes
___T519, *Index to Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, New York, June 16, 1897–June 30, 1902*. 115 rolls. Arranged alphabetically by surname of the immigrant, the index cards provide the date of arrival and the name of the ship.

___T621, *Index (Soundex) to Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, New York, July 1, 1902–December 31, 1943*. 755 rolls. Surnames are arranged according to Soundex code. The index cards appear in one of two formats, depending on the date. Cards prior to 1909 list the passengers, name of the ship, date of arrival, and group and list numbers. The "group" is the same as the page number, and the "list" number is the line number. After 1909, the index cards have the passenger's name, age and gender; line number; page number; and volume number. The volume number corresponds to volume numbers in **T715.**

___T612, *Book Indexes to New York Passenger Lists, 1906–1942*. 807 rolls. These alphabetical indexes to passenger manifests are grouped by shipping line and arranged chronologically by date of arrival. A separate index appears for each vessel.

___M1417, *Index (Soundex) to Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at the Port of New York, 1944–1948.* 94 rolls. Surnames are arranged according to Soundex code, and also provide the date of arrival and name of the ship.

Note: No index exists for 1949 to 1957, even though the passenger manifests are available. It may be necessary to research applications for naturalization to determine dates of arrival, names of ships, and other information about immigrants from this period.

Ship Indexes

If the name of an ancestor's ship is known, it may be possible to determine the exact date of arrival in New York through the following resources:

___M1066, *Register of Vessels Arriving in New York from Foreign Ports, 1789–1919*. 27 rolls. The records are arranged alphabetically by name of ship within an inclusive date range. Some lists are arranged chronologically. Ship information includes country of origin, date of entry, and last port of embarkation. **Rolls 21–22** and **rolls 26–27** include years that correspond to the INS manifests.

___*Morton Allen Directory of European Passenger Steamship Arrivals*, 1890 –1930 (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1998). This resource is a published listing of ship arrivals at New York, arranged by shipping company, then chronologically by date. The listings, however, are not always accurate.

___*INS Catalog of New York Ship Arrival Manifests (by volume), 1897–1937* (Immigration and Naturalization Service: Historical Reference Library, n.d.; typescript.) This resource consists of 18 binders that list ship arrivals into New York, arranged numerically by INS manifest volume, then chronologically by date of arrival. The list of vessels within each date may not appear in alphabetical order.

Online Resources
___*www.ellisisland.org.* Indexes passenger arrivals for 1892–1924.

___*www.ancestry.com.* Free at NARA facilities.

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