
Finding Aid to the Abraham Phineas Nasatir Document Collection, circa 1673-1859, 1925-1971, bulk 1768-1827

Finding Aid written by Anastasia Karel

Funding for processing this collection was provided by National Historical Publications and Records Commission

The Bancroft Library

University of California, Berkeley

Berkeley, California, 94720-6000

Phone: (510) 642-6481

Fax: (510) 642-7589

Email: bancref@library.berkeley.edu

URL: <http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/>

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Finding Aid to the Abraham Phineas Nasatir Document Collection, circa 1673-1859, 1925-1971, bulk 1768-1827

Collection Number: BANC MSS 92/50

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Anastasia Karel

Date Completed:

March 2009

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Collection Summary

Collection Title: Abraham Phineas Nasatir document collection.

Date (inclusive): circa 1673-1859,

Date (inclusive): 1925-1971,

Date (bulk): bulk 1768-1827

Collection Number: BANC MSS 92/50

Creators : Nasatir, Abraham Phineas, 1904-1991

Extent: Number of containers: 14 cartons, 14 folders Linear feet: 14.67 linear feet

Repository: The Bancroft Library

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Abstract: The Abraham Phineas Nasatir document collection consists of research materials from Spanish and American archives that were copied and annotated by Nasatir over the course of his career.

Languages Represented: Collection materials are in English, Spanish and French

Physical Location: Many of the Bancroft Library collections are stored offsite and advance notice may be required for use. For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Access

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Abraham Phineas Nasatir Document Collection, BANC MSS 92/50, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Alternate Forms Available

There are no alternate forms of this collection.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Archivo General de Indias

Historians--California

Osage Indians--History

Spain--Colonies--America

Missouri River Valley--History--Sources

Acquisition Information

The Abraham Phineas Nasatir Document Collection was given to The Bancroft Library by Ida Hirsch Nasatir in 1991.

Accruals

No additions are expected.

System of Arrangement

Arranged to the folder level.

Processing Information

Processed by Anastasia Karel and Rachel Gulbraa in 2009.

Biographical Information

Abraham Phineas Nasatir was born in Santa Ana, CA, on November 24, 1904. His parents were Lithuanian Orthodox Jewish immigrants, and his father instilled in him an early dedication towards scholarship, both religious and academic. This led Nasatir to graduate from high school at age fourteen, and he received his bachelor's degree from Berkeley in 1921 when he was barely seventeen years old. A year later he completed his master's thesis and quickly pursued his doctorate in history. His mentor, Herbert Eugene Bolton, tried to slow Nasatir down by employing him as a teaching assistant from 1923-1924. The following year Nasatir went to France and Spain on a Native Sons of the Golden West traveling fellowship, and in 1926 earned his Ph.D.

He spent the majority of his career on the faculty at San Diego State University, and in addition to teaching he published scores of articles and seventeen books or monographs. Unfortunately, on June 30, 1985, the largest residential fire to hit San Diego to that date claimed a large portion of Nasatir's life work - nearly 500,000 documents (copies and translations) and 2,500 books. His greatest regret was that no more than thirty percent of these materials had been utilized, and he had intended to donate the entire collection to the Bancroft Library. In spite of this setback, Nasatir continued to work and publish until his death on January 18, 1991.

Scope and Content of Collection

The documents in this collection represent only a fraction of the several hundred thousand that Nasatir acquired over the course of his career. These materials were located in his office at San Diego State University, and were thus protected from the house fire that destroyed the rest of his collection. There are no original documents here; the typical material found for each document includes two transcripts of the original (mss. and ts.), and several translations. His filing system was primarily by date and was largely preserved here. However, there is very little information on what the documents were used for, and no personal or other professional papers.

Series 1 Research Materials 1673-1971

Physical Description: 14.67 linear feet (14 cartons, 14 folders)

Scope and Content Note

This series is divided into three subseries based on Nasatir's published and unpublished work. All of his research materials were likely used for multiple works, and the documents were organized by following his original order, which may not represent how he used them.

SubSeries 1.1 **Before Lewis and Clark 1774-1827****Physical Description:** 7.90 linear feet (7 cartons, 20 folders)**Arrangement**

Chronological

Scope and Content Note

The documents in this subseries were matched against documents that appeared in the volumes *Before Lewis and Clark*, and include discards. Most documents include several copies of transcriptions and translations, both in manuscript and typescript form, and information about each document is on a piece of paper stapled to one of the copies.

Carton 1, Folder 1	1774
Carton 1, Folder 2	1775
Carton 1, Folder 3	1775-1776
Carton 1, Folder 4-6	1777
Carton 1, Folder 7	1778
Carton 1, Folder 8	1778-1779
Carton 1, Folder 9-10	1780
Carton 1, Folder 11-12	1781
Carton 1, Folder 13	1782-1783
Carton 1, Folder 14-15	1783
Carton 1, Folder 16-17	1784
Carton 1, Folder 18-19	1785
Carton 2, Folder 1-2	1786
Carton 2, Folder 3-6	1787
Carton 2, Folder 7-9	1788
Carton 2, Folder 10-11	1789
Carton 2, Folder 12-14	1790
Carton 2, Folder 15-17	1791
Carton 3, Folder 1-6	1792
Carton 3, Folder 7-13	1793
Carton 3, Folder 14-16	1794
Carton 4, Folder 1-9	1794
Carton 4, Folder 10-16	1795
Carton 5, Folder 1-3	1795
Carton 5, Folder 4-19	1796
Carton 6, Folder 1	Circa 1796
Carton 6, Folder 2-12	1797
Carton 6, Folder 13-20	1798
Carton 7, Folder 1-4	1799
Carton 7, Folder 5-9	1800
Carton 7, Folder 10-15	1801

SubSeries 1.1 Before Lewis and Clark 1774-1827

Carton 7, Folder 16-18	1802
Carton 8, Folder 1-4	1802
Carton 8, Folder 5-7	1803
Carton 8, Folder 8-11	1804
Carton 8, Folder 12-14	1805
Carton 8, Folder 15	1806
Carton 8, Folder 16	1807
Carton 8, Folder 17	1808
Carton 8, Folder 18	1809
Carton 8, Folder 19	1810
Carton 8, Folder 20	1811-1827

SubSeries 1.2 Osage documents 1768-1827

Physical Description: 1.10 linear feet (1 carton, two folders)

Scope and Content Note

The documents in this subseries appeared to be organized into chapters for a work on the Osage Indian tribe that Nasatir did not publish in its original form. The materials were likely used by Nasatir and Gilbert C. Din for their work *The Imperial Osages*, published in 1983.

Carton 8, Folder 21-22	Original chapter III Circa 1771-1779
Carton 9, Folder 1	Chapter III 1768-1789
Carton 9, Folder 2	Chapters III and IV 1786-1789
Carton 9, Folder 3	Chapter IV 1780-1786
Carton 9, Folder 4-5	Chapter V 1790-1794
Carton 9, Folder 6-8	Chapter VI 1794-1796
Carton 9, Folder 9	Chapters VII and VIII 1803-1805
Carton 9, Folder 10	Letters to/from Riu; Piernas Circa 1760s-1770s
Carton 9, Folder 11-12	Select excerpts from books Circa 1797-1810
Carton 9, Folder 13-16	Transcriptions 1800-1827
Carton 9, Folder 17-19	General 1764-1779

SubSeries 1.3 Other 1673-1850s; 1930-1971, undated

Physical Description: 5.67 linear feet (5 cartons, 14 folders)

Scope and Content Note

This subseries consists of documents that Nasatir used in his research and writing. They are primarily from the Archivo General de Indias, Papeles de Cuba, but also include American archives and libraries. There is one folder of correspondence at the end.

AGI - Papeles de Cuba 1765-1814, undated

Carton 10, Folder 1-2	Legajo 81 1770-1776
Carton 10, Folder 3	Legajo 82 1767-1771
Carton 10, Folder 4	Legajo 107 1770-1775
Carton 10, Folder 5-10	Legajo 109 1765-1768, undated
Carton 10, Folder 11	Legajo 110 1769-1771, undated
Carton 10, Folder 12	Legajo 111 1772-1775, undated

Carton 10, Folder 13	Legajos 117A-B, 118, 119 1784-1788
Carton 10, Folder 14-16	Legajo 170A 1767-1768
Carton 10, Folder 17	Legajo 187 1766-1769
Carton 10, Folder 18	Legajo 188A, B, C 1770-1771
Carton 10, Folder 19	Legajo 189A 1772-1774
Carton 10, Folder 20	Legajo 210 1794-1796
Carton 10, Folder 21	Legajo 216A-B 1796-1799
Carton 10, Folder 22	Legajo 219 1770-1802
Carton 10, Folder 23-24	Legajo 2357 1765-1774
Carton 10, Folder 24a	Legajo 2365 1797
Carton 10, Folder 25	Select legajos, 3-181 1771-1797
Carton 10, Folder 26	Select legajos, 178B-212 1769-1798
Carton 10, Folder 27	Select legajos, 213-2533 1766-1793
	Note
	no. 2533 is from Santo Domingo series
Carton 10, Folder 28	Unsorted legajos 1769, 1797, 1814, undated
Carton 10, Folder 29	AGI - Audiencia de Santo Domingo, legajo 2542 1768
Carton 11, Folder 1-5	Various legajos 1788-1807, undated
Carton 11, Folder 6-9	Chouteau notes and translations 1800s
Carton 11, Folder 10	Court House papers 1820s-1850s
	Note
	St. Louis; transcripts and notes re: Chouteau; copied for Nasatir in 1925
Carton 11, Folder 11-12	Letterbooks of Francisco Vallé 1791-1801
Carton 11, Folder 13-18	Missouri Historical Society 1800s
Carton 11, Folder 19	Morfi's History of Texas undated
	Note
	notes
Carton 11, Folder 20-21	New-York Historical Society 1800s
	Notes 1817-1840s
Carton 11, Folder 22	Wisconsin mss; Indians 1817-1840s
Carton 12, Folder 1-3	Various sources 1778-1850s
	Legajos and other documents 1673-1827
	Arrangement
	chronological
Carton 12, Folder 4	1673-1767
Carton 12, Folder 5	1709-1752
Carton 12, Folder 6	1756-1758
Carton 12, Folder 7	1763-1766
Carton 12, Folder 8	1763-1792
Carton 12, Folder 9-10	1767
Carton 12, Folder 11-13	1768

Carton 12, Folder 14-15	1769
Carton 12, Folder 16-20	1770
Carton 12, Folder 21	Circa 1770-1779
Carton 12, Folder 22-23	1771
Carton 13, Folder 1-3	1772
Carton 13, Folder 4-6	1773
Carton 13, Folder 7	1780-1787
Carton 13, Folder 8	1789
Carton 13, Folder 9	1790-1791
Carton 13, Folder 10	1791-1798
Carton 13, Folder 11	1792
Carton 13, Folder 12	1792-1802
Carton 13, Folder 13-17	1793
Carton 13, Folder 18-19	1793-1795
Carton 13, Folder 20	1793-1797
Carton 13, Folder 21	1794
Carton 14, Folder 1-8	1794
Carton 14, Folder 9	1794-1799
Carton 14, Folder 10-18	1795
Carton 14, Folder 19	1795-1799
Carton 14, Folder 20	1795-1800
Carton 14, Folder 21-22	1796
Carton 15, Folder 1-3	1796
Carton 15, Folder 4-5	1797
Carton 15, Folder 6	1797-1804
Carton 15, Folder 7-8	1798
Carton 15, Folder 9	1799-1800
Carton 15, Folder 10	1802
Carton 15, Folder 11	1803-1827
Carton 15, Folder 12	Undated
Carton 15, Folder 13	Correspondence 1930-1953, undated

Note

four letters; includes transcripts of Delassus and Lavallee's inventories from March 1804

Carton 15, Folder 14 **Pedro Vial document 1804; 1971**

Note

includes letter from John Francis McDermott, translation, transcription, and photocopy of document dated November 23, 1804