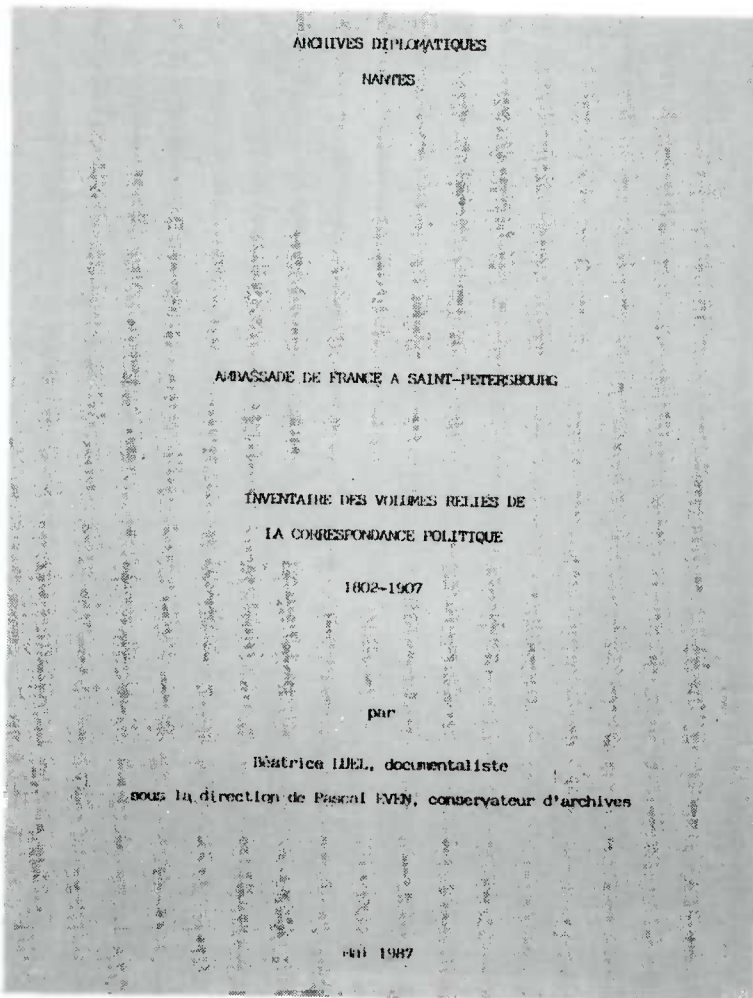


Archival finding aids

Inventories and guides to Diplomatic Archives

1. France

2. The Netherlands



Introduction

This series is intended to promote more frequent use of archive repositories and the effective and impartial study of archival documents by making their contents more widely known and encouraging greater ease of access to archive repositories.

In contrast to libraries, to whose holdings access is normally provided by printed catalogues and bibliographies, archival documents are usually described in finding aids, many of which remain unpublished and are thus only available in the repository where the documents concerned are housed. Many archives have published summary guides to their contents, but since these guides do not give more than a general survey of the holdings, searchers must visit a repository to consult detailed lists and indexes.

To overcome this problem, IDC has decided to launch an international series of finding aids on microfiche. This will make it easier to order photocopies or microfilms of documents from other countries. The first series will be devoted to findings aids to archives related to foreign affairs. This choice was made because such archives, containing as they do information of all kinds about other countries, would be of special interest from the international point of view.

The copyright for all microfiched finding aids remains with the respective Archives.

1. France – Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The finding aids facilitating access to the French diplomatic archives on microfiche concern as a rule the main series of archives of the central civil service, i.e., the Secretariat of State for Foreign Affairs, which was organized definitively in 1626, during the reign of King Louis XIII, and became a ministry under the Revolution.

Until the beginning of the twentieth century the archives of the Ministry comprised three main series: political correspondence, consular and commercial correspondence, and memoirs and documents. The many series which were established – starting in 1902 for the consular and commercial correspondence and in 1918 for the political correspondence – reflect the development and specialization of the Ministry's services. These series can be consulted in Paris, in the reading room of the Quai d'Orsay (entrance 1, rue Esnault Pelterie).

Also included are the first finding aids for the series of archives of the French diplomatic and consular stations abroad, embassies, and con-

sulates, kept in the depot of Diplomatic Archives of Nantes (Archives diplomatiques de Nantes, 19 rue du Casterneau), which was opened to the public in 1987. The relevant inventories refer to only a very small part of the collections in Nantes, which already occupy fifteen kilometres of shelf space. The decision was taken not to reproduce old and not very reliable archival finding aids that are to be replaced in the near future.

Literature: *Les Affaires étrangères et le corps diplomatique français (Foreign Affairs and the French diplomatic corps)*. (Paris, 1984). 2 vols. pp. 841-1018; *Les archives du ministère des Relations extérieures depuis les origines: Histoire et guide (Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from the outset: History and guide)*. (Paris, 1985). 2 vols. pp. 480-523; *Etat général des inventaires des archives diplomatiques (General condition of inventories of diplomatic archives)*. (Paris, 1987). 250 pages.

Contents

Correspondance politique (1222-1944)

Correspondance consulaire et commerciale (1773-1901)

Mémoires et documents (1613-1896)

Oeuvres et relations culturelles (1681-1955)

Séries politiques (origines - 1955)

Questions commerciales (1811-1940)

Questions techniques et administratives (origines - 1907)

Archives des Postes (1585-1907)

Order number KAA-301/1

Number of fiches 172

2. The Netherlands – Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In December 1813, The Netherlands appointed its first Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and in 1815 his title was changed in that of minister. This ministry was to concentrate mainly on diplomacy and commercial policy. The administration of the nation's industry was linked to the Ministry of the Interior between 1834 and 1841, and its archives were incorporated into the archives of the Ministry of the Interior. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs formed central archives, part of which, called *A.dossiers*, are files relating to political affairs. Part of the archives of Dutch legations and con-

sulates (many documents from these archives have been lost) are described in inventory 02.05.01. All archives can be consulted in the Algemeen Rijksarchief in The Hague.

Literature: *Organisatie en reorganisatie van het Departement van Buitenlandse Zaken* ('s-Gravenhage, 1950); *Het oud-archief van het ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken*, in: *Jaarboek van het ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken 1962/1963* ('s-Gravenhage, 1963) 151-163; *Jaarboek van het Departement van Buitenlandse Zaken 1950/51 - ('s-Gravenhage, 1951 -)*.

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Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken (1813-1870), supplements (1814-1940), alphabetical registers

Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken, A-dossiers 1871-1918, including A-dossiers 250 (documents relating to the First World War 1914-1918)

Archivalia betreffende de centrale commissie voor de Rijnvaart uit het archief van het ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken (1816-1936)

Nederlandse legaties

Legatie te Constantinopel (1850-1872)

Legatie te Washington (1814-1881)

Nederlandse consulaten

Order number KAA-201/1 - KAA-207/1
Number of fiches 19

General Information

Size of fiches	105 x 148 mm
Film type	Positive silver halide
Reduction ratio	1 : 18 - 1 : 24
Internal finding aids	Eye-legible headers with title and page numbers
External finding aids	A printed guide to Sections 1 and 2, with a direct correlation to the microfiches