

Guide to
the Microfilm Edition
of the

FBI File on Owen Lattimore

A Microfilm Publication by

Primary Source Media



Guide to
the Microfilm Edition
of the

FBI File on Owen Lattimore

A Microfilm Publication by

Primary Source Media



Acknowledgment

Scholarly Resources (an imprint of Primary Source Media) microfilm publications of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Files are produced with the cooperation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, DC.

ISBN 0-8420-4302-0

Manufactured in the United States of America

Published 2003

Distributed on microfilm by:

Primary Source Media



12 Lunar Drive, Woodbridge, CT 06525

Tel: (800) 444-0799 and (203) 397-2600

Fax: (203) 397-3893

Website: www.gale.cengage.com/psm/

Introduction

An American sinologist and college professor, Owen Lattimore traveled extensively and did research throughout China, Manchuria, Mongolia, and Chinese Turkistan. From 1938 to 1950, he served as director of the Page School of International Relations at Johns Hopkins. In 1950, Senator Joseph McCarthy accused Lattimore of being a Soviet espionage agent. A Senate committee exonerated him later that year. In 1952, he was indicted on seven counts of perjury on the charge that he lied when he told a Senate internal security subcommittee earlier in 1952 that he had not promoted Communism and Communist interests. In 1955 the Justice Department dropped all charges against him.

Most of the material in this file relates to Lattimore's leftist sympathies and catalogs how he became a victim of McCarthyism.

Roll Notes

FBI File: 100-24628

Section No. 1

Roll 1, 0001-0304

Sep 1941-Sep 1949

Internal Security

Investigation of Owen Lattimore, Vice President of the Maryland Civil Liberties Committee and political advisor to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek

Background information of Owen Lattimore

Investigation into the allegation that Owen Lattimore is a Russian agent

Excerpts from *New York Times Book Review* (Apr 1949) of Lattimore's *The Situation in Asia*

Allegation that Lattimore is mentioned in files of the House Committee on Un-American Activities as having Communist front affiliations

Investigation into Lattimore's participation at a meeting of the Arctic Research Laboratory Advisory Board at Barrow Point, Alaska (May 1949)

Surveillance report includes:

Allegation of espionage activities by Owen Lattimore

Investigation of Lattimore's activities in connection with "Amerasia"

Excerpts from the radio broadcast "The American Forum on the Air" (May 1949) with Owen

Lattimore and Homer Ferguson debating: "What Is the United States' Responsibility in China?"

Section No. 2

Roll 1, 0306-0492

Sep-Oct 1949

Internal Security: Espionage

Investigation into alleged espionage activities of Owen Lattimore

Surveillance of Lattimore and guests residing at Deering Farm, Bethel, VT (Aug 1949)

Allegation that Owen Lattimore is not a card-carrying member of the Communist Party, but closely follows the Communist line

Correspondence surveillance of Owen and Eleanore Lattimore

Regarding the literature and information received by Owen Lattimore regarding the Far East

Observance of Confidential Informants

Section No. 3

Roll 1, 0494-0686

Nov 1949-Jan 1950

Internal Security: Espionage

Allegation that Owen Lattimore is a Russian agent and investigation into his service on a State Department advisory committee reviewing U.S. foreign policy in China and Central Asia

Report on associates of Owen Lattimore with alleged ties to the Communist Party

Report that Lattimore wrote a magazine article that was favorable to Soviet policy toward its minority groups

Investigation into the activities of Owen Lattimore

Allegation that Owen Lattimore's regular column for the Overseas News Agency is "left of center and pro-Communist in respect to China"

Surveillance reports on the activities of Owen

Lattimore, including his associates and contacts

Section No. 4

Roll 1, 0688-0874

Dec 1949-Mar 1950

Internal Security: Espionage

Excerpt from article: "Disaster in China" (Sep 1949)

cites Owen Lattimore as responsible for the Russian triumph in China

Investigation into Lattimore's association with the Hollywood Writer's Association, an alleged Communist front group

Surveillance report on the activities of Owen Lattimore, including his associates and contacts

Report on Lattimore trip to New Delhi, India, and alleged Communist activity

Interview with James F. Kearney, S.J., author of "Disaster in China" which attacked Lattimore

News article:

Columbia (Sep 1949)

"Disaster in China"

Owen Lattimore background check prior to issuance of a passport

Report on the Area Conference on Subversive Activities (Feb 1950)

Report of proposed Lattimore trip to India and Afghanistan

Section No. 5

Roll 1, 0876-1083

Mar 1950

Internal Security: Espionage

Review of the Main File

Discrepancies found in the Correlation summary

News article (Mar 1950)

"Long Chance Left: J. Edgar Hoover's Testimony

Makes Charges Against Lattimore Look

Flimsy"

U.S. State Department request for FBI files on Owen
Lattimore
Investigation of Lattimore's association with Dr. Rich-
ard Sorge, a former Director of Soviet Military
Intelligence
Transcript of Drew Pearson radio broadcast (Mar 1950)
defending Lattimore

Section No. 6 **Roll 1, 1085-END**
Mar-Apr 1950
Internal Security: Espionage
Investigation into Owen Lattimore and his association
with Andrew Roth
Investigation into Owen Lattimore and his association
with the Living Buddha
Investigation into the allegations made by Sen. Joseph
McCarthy and the Senate Subcommittee against
Owen Lattimore
Investigation into persons associated with the Vietnam-
American Friendship Association Inc.
Investigation of Owen Lattimore and alleged Soviet
intelligence activities

Section No. 7 **Roll 2, 0001-0199**
Apr 1950
Internal Security: Espionage
Investigation into associates of the American-Russian
Institute for Cultural Relations
Investigation of Thomas Bisson as being a Communist
sympathizer
Investigation of author Howard Fast as contributing
writer to the "Daily Worker"

Remarks of Sen. Joseph McCarthy from the floor of the
Senate, charging Owen Lattimore as a Communist
Investigation of John Paul Milan Marsalka as an agent
of the Soviet Union
Investigation of individuals who had known contact
with Owen Lattimore
Interview with Freda Utley concerning her as a
Comintern agent in Moscow
Excerpts of Owen Lattimore testimony before Senator
Hickenlooper and a subcommittee
Correspondence to Mr. Joseph Barnes, Office of War
Information, from Owen Lattimore
News article:
The New York Times (Feb 1946)
“Mrs. Roosevelt Defends Dr. Jessup’s Record”
Interviews with individuals who had known contact
with Owen Lattimore

Section No. 8 **Roll 2, 0201-0453**
Apr 1950
Internal Security: Espionage
Interviews with individuals who had known contact
with Owen Lattimore
Investigation of individuals who had known contact
with Owen Lattimore
Interview with Joseph Barnes (Apr 1950)
Interview with Freda Utley (Apr 1950)
Interviews with individuals who had known contact
with Owen Lattimore
Report concerning the activities of Owen Lattimore
Documents furnished by Alfred Kohlberg, NYC, about
Owen Lattimore

Section No. 9

Roll 2, 0453-0615

Apr 1950

Internal Security: Espionage

Instructions for conducting interviews with Dr. Philip
Jessup and Owen Lattimore

News article:

“Disaster in China” by James F. Kearney, S.J.

Transcript of a telephone conversation between J. B.
Matthews and Louis F. Budenz

Surveillance report on the activities of Owen
Lattimore

Interviews with individuals associated with Owen
Lattimore on the American Reparations Commis-
sion to Japan, 1945

Report concerning the technical surveillance main-
tained on Owen Lattimore

Report alleges that Chiang Kai-Shek was disappointed
with the nomination of Owen Lattimore as his
advisor, and as a result of their working relation-
ship, Lattimore became anti-Chiang Kai-Shek

Investigation into charges made by Sen. Joseph
McCarthy, labeling Owen Lattimore as a “bad
security risk”

Section No. 10

Roll 2, 0617-0864

Apr 1950

Internal Security: Espionage

Investigation into Lattimore’s appearance at a rally held
by the American Peace Mobilization

Transcripts of interviews with Louis F. Budenz

Excerpts of Lattimore testimony before a Senate Sub-
committee, refuting charges made by Sen. Joseph

McCarthy and refuting any association with the
Communist Party
Acknowledgment of materials received by the FBI from
Sen. Joseph McCarthy
News article:
 "FBI is Probing Lattimore Here" (Mar 1950)
Interview with an informant alleges that both Owen and
 Mrs. Lattimore are strong in Communist beliefs
Memorandum concerning photographing documents
 from the files of Alfred Kohlberg
News article:
 N.Y. Daily Mirror (Apr 1950)
 "Kohlberg Says His File Has More on Lattimore"
Excerpts from Baltimore Summary Report concerning
 Owen Lattimore
Report concerning Owen Lattimore's testimony before a
 Senate Subcommittee

Section No. 11

Roll 2, 0866-1032

Apr 1950

Internal Security: Espionage

Report outlining misquotations from Sen. Joseph
 McCarthy regarding Lattimore's writings
Transcript of Owen Lattimore's remarks before a Senate
 Subcommittee on Foreign Relations, defending
 himself against the charges made by Sen. Joseph
 McCarthy
Excerpts from letters and telegrams from scholars with
 a professional knowledge of Lattimore's work
Excerpts from an interview with Louis F. Budenz
Excerpts from interviews conducted concerning any
 association with Owen Lattimore

Section No. 12

Roll 2, 1034-END

Apr 1950

Internal Security: Espionage

Allegation that Lattimore's writings indicate he has
been anti-Chiang Kai-Shek

Report on material received from Sen. Joseph
McCarthy

Memorandum containing miscellaneous items of
information regarding Owen Lattimore

Excerpts from *China Monthly* regarding Owen
Lattimore

Report on material received from Alfred Kohlberg

News articles:

Philadelphia Inquirer (Apr 1950)

"McCarthy 'On the Run' Lattimore Asserts Here;
Calls Red Hunt Failure"

The Evening Bulletin (Apr 1950)

"Lattimore Urges Wait and See Policy in China"

Report that Sen. Millard Tydings told Owen Lattimore
the FBI confidential file "puts you completely in
the clear"

Memorandum advising of the necessity to identify all
significant contacts of Owen Lattimore

Background on John Steward Service and his associa-
tion with Owen Lattimore

Investigation into possible sources used by Sen. Joseph
McCarthy

Summary of an interview conducted with Freda Utley

Summary of interviews conducted with Louis F.
Budenz

Copy of an article entitled: "A Soviet Analysis of
Chinese Civilization," written by Owen Lattimore

Section No. 13

Roll 3, 0001-0207

Apr 1950

Internal Security: Espionage

Allegation that Sen. Joseph McCarthy is after the
exposure of "anarchistic" Acheson

Summary of an interview with Louis F. Budenz

Summary of an interview conducted at the Carnegie
Corporation, NYC

News article:

The New Leader (Apr 1950)

Book review of Owen Lattimore's "The Pivot of Asia"
"Mr. Lattimore's Latest"

Interviews with individuals and organizations associ-
ated with Owen Lattimore

Summary of testimony given by Louis F. Budenz to
Senate Subcommittee on Foreign Relations

Background information on Charles S. Martin, head of
the Political Science Department, University of
Washington

Background information on publisher Miller Freeman

Section No. 14

Roll 3, 0209-0406

Apr 1950

Internal Security: Espionage

Bureau request for a complete survey on Owen
Lattimore including income earned over a
15-year period

Summary of an interview with Louis F. Budenz

Background information on John Paton Davies, Jr.

Summary of an interview with Joseph K. Yamagiwa,
Professor of Japanese at the University of Michigan

Summary of an interview with Elizabeth T. Bentley

Report on the foreign travels of Owen Lattimore
Summary of hearings of the Senate Subcommittee on
Foreign Relations, relating to allegations of Sen.
McCarthy regarding loyalty of government
employees
Background information on Mrs. Eleanor Lattimore

Section No. 15

Roll 3, 0408-0644

Apr 1950

Internal Security: Espionage

Investigation of Mrs. Isabel Ward, a former employee of
the Institute of Pacific Relations

U.S. Savings Bond information for Owen, Eleanor, and
David Lattimore

Summary of an interview with Ronald and Natalie
Gurney

Photostat of summary on Nakanishi Ko

Summary of an interview with Louis F. Budenz

Summary of an interview with Dr. Vernon E.
Hendershot

News articles:

New York Journal American (Apr 1950)

“Reds Glorified by Lattimore”

N.Y. Sunday Mirror (Apr 1950)

“Reds, Pinkos, Fronters in Entertainment Field”

Transcript of Senate Subcommittee hearings

Summary of investigative reports in the file on Owen
Lattimore

Investigation of Nobutaka Ike, an instructor in Japanese
Naval Language School, University of Colorado and
his wife, Tai

News article:

The Burlington Daily News (Apr 1950)

“A Priest Appraises Owen Lattimore”

Section No. 16

Roll 3, 0646-0847

Apr 1950

Internal Security: Espionage

Background and personal history of Owen Lattimore

Request to interview Philip J. Jaffe and Thomas A.

Bisson

Financial records from the Institute of Pacific Relations

Investigation of Charles A. Siepmann and his involvement with Voice of Freedom Committee, an alleged front group for the Communist Party

Allegation that Owen Lattimore is sympathetic to the Communist Party based on his writings and editorials

Section No. 17

Roll 3, 0849-1057

Apr 1950

Internal Security: Espionage

Investigation into the service of Owen Lattimore while a member of the American Reparations Mission to Japan, 1945-1946

Memorandum to identify all significant contacts of Owen Lattimore

Summary of Owen Lattimore references contained in a State Department pamphlet

Examination of Tenney Files (Senate Fact-Finding Committee on Un-American Activities)

Summary of an interview with Harriet Moore Gelfan

Transcript of Gifford Pinchot radio broadcast (Mar 1941)

Summary of statements made by Louis F. Budenz and Philip J. Jaffe

Interview concerning the leadership of the Institute of Pacific Relations

Investigation of Natalie Gurney

Verification of statements made by Owen Lattimore in
his testimony before Senate Subcommittee hearings
Investigation into information supplied by Alfred
Kohlberg
Request to review Internal Revenue records regarding
Mrs. Owen Lattimore

Section No. 18

Roll 3, 1059-END

Apr 1950

Internal Security: Espionage

Owen Lattimore identified as being present at a fare-
well party for Comrade Tung and at a social gather-
ing of the Committee for a Democratic Far Eastern
Policy

Summary of information provided by Louis F. Budenz
Statement of Brig. Gen. Elliott R. Thorpe before the
Senate Subcommittee

Investigation of Jerome Dwight Davis

Summary of testimony of Louis F. Budenz before the
Senate Subcommittee

Summary of an interview with Edward C. Carter,
former Secretary General of the Institute of
Pacific Relations

Newsletter of Facts on Communism:

“Counterattack” (Dec 1947, Jan 1949)

Allegation that some of the writings of Owen Lattimore
are “factually incorrect and excellent press for
Communism”

Description of documents among the personal effects
of the Living Buddha, an associate of Owen
Lattimore

Investigation of John Carter Vincent

News article:

Congressional Record (Jun 1947)

Section No. 19

Roll 4, 0001-0181

Apr 1950

Internal Security: Espionage

Summary of Tydings Committee hearings regarding
Owen Lattimore

Report on prominent Americans in China (1930-1940)
and Anti-Chiang Kai-Shek sentiment

Report on Owen Lattimore's Repatriation Mission to
Japan during 1945

Report on Owen Lattimore and his association with the
Walter Hines Page School of International Rela-
tions, Johns Hopkins University

Excerpt from "The American Forum of the Air" radio
program (May 1949) on the topic: "What is the
United States' Responsibility in China?"

Listing of associates and acquaintances of Owen
Lattimore

Summaries of interviews of various individuals con-
cerning Owen Lattimore

Report on Owen Lattimore and his trip to Point Barrow,
Alaska (May 1949)

Excerpts from several Lattimore writings concerning
China and the Communist Party

Section No. 20

Roll 4, 0183-0409

Apr 1950

Internal Security: Espionage

News articles:

Washington Times Herald (Oct 1945)

"State Dept. Sends MacArthur Soviet Sympathizers
as Aides"

Pacific Affairs (Dec 1934)

"The Economic Basis of Unity and Division in
Chinese History"

Memorandum containing corrections to items furnished
to the State Department concerning Owen
Lattimore

Summary of telephone interview with Louis F. Budenz

Summary of interviews concerning Owen Lattimore

Report of an individual posing as a political refugee
from China and using his hard luck story to extort
money from individuals and church groups

Memorandum concerning investigation into income
received by Lattimore from 1935-1950

Summary of an interview concerning the association of
John P. Davies with Owen Lattimore

Report on the Mongul Project, The Page School of
International Relations, Johns Hopkins University

Information on Dr. Karl H. Menges and Thomas
Weiner, assistants to Owen Lattimore with the book
"Pivot of Asia"

Summaries of interviews with individuals concerning
Owen Lattimore

Memorandum requests an interview with American
Consul Edmund Clubb

Summary of an interview with Mrs. John Huber

News article:
San Francisco Examiner (Jul 1941)
"Chinese Cannot Lose, Declares Owen Lattimore"

News article:
San Francisco Chronicle (Jul 1941)
"Lattimore to Address Pacific Relations Body"

Section No. 21 **Roll 4, 0411-0620**
Apr 1950
Internal Security: Espionage
Information on Nathaniel Peffer, David M. Levitan and
A. T. Steele, all associates of Owen Lattimore

Allegation that while Editor of "Pacific Affairs," Owen Lattimore followed the Communist Party line
Investigation into the Union for Democratic Action as a Communist front organization
Inventory of Owen Lattimore material not included in a summary read to the Senate Subcommittee
Financial Survey of Owen Lattimore, 1935-1950
Investigation of the Washington Committee for Aid to China as a Communist front organization

Section No. 22 **Roll 4, 0622-0767**

Apr-May 1950

Internal Security: Espionage

Inventory of documents furnished to the Department of State

Information regarding the associates of Owen Lattimore from the Office of War Information (OWI)

Investigation into charges made by Sen. Joseph McCarthy against Owen Lattimore

Summaries of interviews with various associates of Owen Lattimore

Inventory of informative material on Owen Lattimore

Transcript of Minutes of the Fourth Meeting, Arctic Research Advisory Board (May 1949)

Investigation into the disappearance of John Huber, a scheduled witness before the Senate Subcommittee

Characterization of Owen Lattimore based on several of his writings

Section No. 23 **Roll 4, 0769-0989**

Apr-May 1950

Internal Security: Espionage

Report links the writings of Owen Lattimore with the Communist Party line of thinking

Summaries of various interviews with individuals
concerning Owen Lattimore
American Institute of Pacific Relations answers
McCarthy and Kohlberg charges
News article:
Miami Daily News (Apr 1950)
"Never Knew Lattimore, Browder Tells Probers"
Allegation that Owen Lattimore was part of an anti-
Chiang Kai-Shek clique in the Office of War Infor-
mation (OWI)
Summary of an interview with Robert G. Bowman,
Professor of Geography, University of Nebraska
Summaries of individual interviews concerning Owen
Lattimore
Translation of Soviet news article:
Problems of History (Apr 1949)
"American Falsifiers on the Policy of the USA in
Relation to the Chinese Revolution, 1925-1927"
Summary of an interview with Louis F. Budenz (Apr
1950)
Background information on William M. McGovern,
professor of Political Science,
Northwestern University
Background information on Col. Peter H. Ottosen of the
Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC)
Summary of an interview with an individual regarding
Owen Lattimore

Section No. 24

Roll 4, 0991-1211

May 1950

Internal Security: Espionage

Allegation that Owen Lattimore received a memo
outlining an embargo of scrap iron and oil against
Japan

Interviews with individuals concerning Owen Lattimore
and his association with Frederick Field, Isaiah
Bowman and Robert Bowman
Summary of Senate Subcommittee hearings with Louis
F. Budenz and Owen Lattimore
Request to review financial records of Owen Lattimore
for the years: 1939, 1945, and 1948
Report on F. McCracken Fisher and his association with
Owen Lattimore
Summary of interviews with associates of Owen
Lattimore
News article:
The New Republic (Apr 1950)
"The Men Behind McCarthy"
"Harold A. Ickes: McCarthy, 'Fallen Senator' "
Employment and financial records of Owen Lattimore
Report of Owen Lattimore and his contacts with the
Washington Committee for Aid to China
Summary of a report on the activities of Owen
Lattimore, includes excerpts from his writings

Section No. 25

Roll 4, 1213-END

May 1950

Internal Security: Espionage

Summaries of information gathered on associates of
Owen Lattimore

News article:

The Daily Worker (Apr 1943)

"Soviet Expert Warns of Appeasers in China"

Owen Lattimore financial records

Information concerning Amerasia and the Institute of
Pacific Relations

Report on Owen Lattimore and a meeting of the Arctic
Research Laboratory Advisory Board (May 1949)

Report concerning attendees of meetings arranged by
the Office of Public Affairs
Summary of hearings conducted by the Senate Subcom-
mittee concerning Lattimore's association with the
Institute of Pacific Relations
Summaries of interviews with associates of Owen
Lattimore