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Sociological Novels Reviewed in *Sociology and Social Research*, 1925-1958¹

Michael R. Hill

THE BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD reveals the novel as a distinctive and frequently used format for sociological inquiry and exposition.² From 1925 to 1958, the pages of *Sociology and Social Research* identified and reviewed 140 examples of sociological novels.³ A bibliography of these novels is provided here, annotated with citations for the reviews in *Sociology and Social Research*. This “library” of sociological novels is a useful resource for research on American culture, student projects, and (not unimportantly) recreational reading that combines business with pleasure.

Under the editorship of Emory S. Bogardus, *Sociology and Social Research* routinely opened its pages to reviews of alternative forms of sociological expression. Instructively, Bogardus merged his interest in quantitative social measurement with a commitment to literature as a form of sociological exploration. In particular, he explored “social distances” in a variety of literary works, including novels.⁴

¹ **SOCIOLOGICAL ORIGINS**, Volume 5, No. 1, Fall 2006: 54-59. All rights reserved.

² For additional discussion along these lines, see, for example: L.M. Blum, “Feminism and the Mass Media: A Case Study of *The Women’s Room* as Novel and Television Film,” pp. 395-417 in *Women and Symbolic Interaction*, edited by M.J. Deegan and M.R. Hill, Boston: Allen and Unwin, 1987; L.S. Carney, “Decadence and Modernity in the Unfinished Society: The Latin American Novel,” *International Journal of Politics, Culture and Society* 1(2): 291-300, 1987; M.J. Deegan and M. Stein, “Existentialism and Fiction: Exploring and Containing the Experience,” *Free Inquiry in Creative Sociology* 12: 180-184, 1981; M. Evans, *Jane Austen and the State*, London: Tavistock, 1987; D. Glover, “Sociology and the Thriller: The Case of Dashiell Hammett,” *Sociological Review* 27(1): 21-40, 1979; W. Griswold, “American Character and the American Novel: An Expansion of Reflection Theory in the Sociology of Literature,” *American Journal of Sociology* 86: 740-65, 1981; M.R. Hill, “Novels, Thought Experiments, and Humanist Sociology in the Classroom: Mari Sandoz and *Capital City*,” *Teaching Sociology* 15(1): 38-44, 1987; A.A. Khatari, “Analysis of Fiction: A Method for Intracultural and Cross-cultural Study of Family Systems,” *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 42: 197-203, 1980; J. Mechling, “Peter L. Berger’s Novels of Precarious Vision,” *Sociological Inquiry* 54: 359-81, 1984; N. Perry, “Catch Class and Bureaucracy: The Meaning of Joseph Heller’s *Catch 22*,” *Sociological Review* 32: 719-41, 1984; I. Shun, “A Choice of Nightmares: On Joseph Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness*,” *Studies in Symbolic Interaction* 6: 335-49, 1985; S. Webb, “Ireland in Fiction,” *The New Statesman* 6 (March 11, 1916: 546 – 547) and reprinted, this issue, in **SOCIOLOGICAL ORIGINS** 5 (1): 21-24, 2006; and I.K. Zola, “Any Distinguishing Features? — The Portrayal of Disability in the Crime-Mystery Genre,” *Policy Studies Journal* 15(3): 485-513, 1987; etc., etc.

³ Melvin J. Vincent wrote the lion’s share of these reviews, and Emory S. Bogardus contributed several additional critiques. Other reviewers included: Read Bain, John H. Burma, Doris Cleage, Virginia Elmquist, D.W. Hamilton, Cecil Evva Larsen, Edward C. McDonagh, Martin H. Neumeyer, John E. Nordskog, and N.N. Puckett.

⁴ See, for example: E.S. Bogardus, “Social Distance in Fiction,” *Sociology and Social Research* 14: 174-80, 1929-30; “Social Distance in Shakespeare,” *Sociology and Social Research* 18(1): 67-73, 1933; “Social Distance in Greek Drama,” *Sociology and Social Research* 33(4): 291-95,

Several of the works cited in the bibliography below have become classics and are readily available. The bibliography also notes many lesser known works still available in used book stores across the country. Virtually all of the listed titles can be obtained through interlibrary loan. It is hoped you will find this bibliography a useful resource — one to which you will add your own updates.

LIST OF NOVELS REVIEWED IN *SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL RESEARCH*

Note: The volume and page number location of each review as it appears in *Sociology and Social Research* follows in square brackets after each entry.

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