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# The University of Nebraska Sociology Centennial: An Archival and Documentary Souvenir

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# SOCIOLOGICAL ORIGINS

Special Supplement to  
Vol. 2, No. 2

## **The University of Nebraska Sociology Centennial: An Archival and Documentary Souvenir**

Michael R. Hill, EDITOR

THIS DOCUMENTARY SOUVENIR is published in conjunction with the centennial celebration of the Department of Sociology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, March 3-4, 2000. Copies for distribution during the centennial festivities are provided, in part, courtesy of the George Elliott Howard Institute for Advanced Sociological Research. The archival and documentary items selected for inclusion in this special supplement to *Sociological Origins* are, of necessity, culled from a much larger pool of potential items, many of which could easily be included in such a compilation with equal justification. All materials reproduced herein possess unique historic value, and it is hoped too that some may inspire and amuse. For outlines of the history of sociology at the University of Nebraska, Howard (1927) and Hertzler (1929) provide instructive, first-person introductions. With this preamble, this keepsake supplement is submitted for your perusal and enjoyment. On behalf of *Sociological Origins*, I take this opportunity to extend the heartiest congratulations and best wishes for the future to the Department of Sociology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, to the faculty, to the students, and, especially, to my fellow alumni.

### REFERENCES

- Hertzler, J.O. [1929]. "A History of Sociology at the University of Nebraska," edited by Mary Jo Deegan. *Journal of the History of Sociology* 1 (1979): 40-62.
- Howard, George Elliott. [1927]. "Sociology in the University of Nebraska, 1898-1927," edited by Michael R. Hill. *Mid-American Review of Sociology* 13 (Winter 1988): 3-19.

Titles - depts.  
of pol.sci. and  
Eng.lit. and of  
profs. in charge

On motion of Regent Teeters it was ordered that the department of political and economic science be hereafter known as the department of "political economy and sociology"; also that the title of the combined departments of English and English literature be hereafter the department of "English language and literature", and that the professors <sup>there</sup> in

(223)

JUN 6 - 1900

Taylor and Sherman have the titles respectively of professors of "political economy and sociology" and "English language and literature".

EXHIBIT 1. Excerpt from the Minutes of the University of Nebraska Board of Regents, June 6, 1900 (*University of Nebraska Archives*). The board officially creates the Department of Political Economy and Sociology. Charles E. Bessey was the Acting Chancellor. In 1906, the department was reorganized as the Department of Political Science and Sociology.

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Rev. Father Reads, Vice Pres. Prof. A. Ross Hill, Cor. Sec.

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EX-OFFICIO, The Mayor and Health Officer of Lincoln and the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Lancaster county.

❁ Charity Organization Society ❁

OF LINCOLN, NEBRASKA.

CHAS. A. ELLWOOD, Ph. D., Gen. Sec'y.

Telephone 692. Office 137 South 11th Street

Lincoln, Neb., MAY 31 1900..19

To the Board of Regents  
of the University of Nebraska.  
Respected Sirs:-

MAY 31 1900

Having been called to fill the chair in sociology, recently established in the University of the State of Missouri, I herewith tender you my resignation as instructor in sociology in the University of Nebraska, to take effect at the end of the present academic year.

Thanking you for the appreciation which you have shown of my work and for the honorable connection which I have enjoyed with the University of Nebraska, I am,

Most respectfully yours,  
Chas. A. Ellwood

EXHIBIT 2. Letter, Charles A. Ellwood to the Board of Regents, May 31, 1900 (*University of Nebraska Archives*). Ellwood resigns after one year as the first professor at Nebraska appointed as a "sociologist." He directed the Charity Organization and taught half-time, but was never paid for his university services. He was president of the American Sociological Society in 1924.

# SOCIOLOGY,

## Its Position in the Curriculum of University Studies.

An Open Field For Investigation---Dr. Ross  
Junior Professor in Department.

It has only been within comparatively recent years that the value of Sociology as a study, and a field for investigation has been recognized. As a branch of philosophy it has been touched upon to be sure, but as a science of itself it is yet in its infancy. That in the subject there lies the material for infinite research and endless investigation are apparent, for as yet there are few established conclusions, and each student of social questions is at liberty to formulate his own sociology.

As a part of the curriculum of American colleges, its study has been a recent innovation, but that its worth is making itself apparent is attested by the constant offering of new courses, and the founding of new chairs in Sociology.

The study of Sociology in the University of Nebraska, dates back some ten years. An important branch of Social science was taught as early as '90 by Prof. Warner then at the head of the department of Political economy. A strong course on charities and corrections was given but nothing in general Sociology.

Later professors in the department of economics conducted researches along these lines, in connection with their work in political economy, but Sociology held a very subordinate position in the University curriculum, until nineteen hundred. In that year Prof. E. A. Ross was called to Nebraska from Leland-Stanford, Jr., University of California, becoming Junior professor in the department of political economy, with the title of Prof. of Sociology. It was not made a distinctive department, as both Professors concerned keenly realized the close affiliations of the sciences of Sociology

and political economy. Sociology now occupies a prominent place in the list of University studies.

In the person of Dr. Ross the University of Nebraska secured a man well fitted by a long course of study and years of teaching along sociological lines; to take charge of this newly created sub-department.

Dr. Ross was graduated from Coe College in 1886. He spent some years abroad in the study of Philosophical and Historical subjects, and returning to the United States received the degree of Ph.D from John Hopkins University in '91. During the years '92 and '93 he was Professor of Economics and Social Science at the University of Indiana, leaving there the following year to accept an associate professorship of Political Economy at Cornell. In '93 he was called to Leland Stanford, Jr., as Professor of Economic Theory and Finance and later was made Professor of Sociology. Here he remained until 1900 when he accepted a call to Nebraska.

Prof. Ross occupies a prominent place among the students of Social Science. He has been the author of upwards of forty articles upon Economic and Sociological subjects which have appeared from time to time in the Popular Science Monthly, Arena, Outlook, Review of Reviews, and other leading journals of America. He is also the author of a volume on "Social Control" recently brought out by the McMillen Publishing Co. Dr. Ross is a member of the American Economic Association, and was Secretary of the organization in '92 and '93. Last year he was selected by the American Academy of Political and Sociological Science, to give the main

address at its annual session in Philadelphia. In 1900 he was elected as associate to the Institute Internationale de Sociologie. This year in addition to his work in the University of Nebraska, he is also lecturer on Sociology at Harvard. Dr. Ross' work here may be divided into three grades, the first that of Sociology proper; the second group being composed of those subjects which admit of the application of economics and sociological principles, and the third consists of those studies which have a distinctly economic bearing.

Under the first group of studies may be noted the course designated as Sociology. This course consists of lectures and readings upon the history of Sociology and methods of Sociological research.

The second group is composed of similar work on concrete subjects, such as colonies and colonization, cities and population. Here it is sought to bring to bear the science of Economics, Sociology, Finance, and Politics upon concrete material. The courses offered here are entirely new. The study of cities, their economic basis, their social conditions and problems, was originated by Prof. Ross, and was taught for the first time about five years ago. The course in the colonies and colonization is offered for the first time this year. It consists of investigation by the seminar into the problems of economics, sociology, finance and government presented by our new colonial possessions.

Both these courses demand original research by the student. No text books are used and original results are aimed at through co-operative in-

# Scarlet and Cream.

University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska.

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vestigation. Each student exhausts the resources of our library on his chosen topic and is left to draw his own conclusions and make his own deductions.

In the third group of subjects, those of an economic nature are "Economic Problems," "Public Finance," "Railroads and Transportation."

The first study deals with current questions—trusts, corporations, labor and capital and other present-day problems. Under the course designated Public Finance an investigation into the theories and methods of transportation, public expenditure and financial administration is made. Alternating with this study is the course on Railroad and Transportation. Owing to the splendid railroad library at Stanford investigation and instructions along this line were carried further at Leland Stanford under Dr. Ross than they have been at any other institution in America. Owing to narrower library equipment for that subject the work here cannot be as exhaustive.

The course which Dr. Ross expects to offer every other year upon the subject of education and society will, it is thought, be especially interesting to teachers and educators.

Associated with Dr. Ross in this field of investigation is Mr. Prevey who is likewise admirably fitted for this particular line of work. He offers work on statistics, socialism, criminology and charities. Mr. Prevey is secretary of the Charity organization of this city and his access to the different state institutions is helpful to his work on charities and criminology.

Although it is intended to conduct the work in sociology along the same general lines in which it now is yet new subjects will be taken up for original investigation as they may be evolved from the development of our social and political life.

The study of sociology differs from the kindred subject of political economy in that it lays little claim to be called a developed science. No considerable set of unchanging principles can be stated with reference to it and no amount of investigation can as yet produce a sense of finality. In this very fact lies the chief merit of the subject. It demands original thought and research and it is beyond all things of practical importance since it deals so largely with the present conditions of social life.

The work as conducted in this field of investigation in the University of Nebraska is practically the same as that given by Dr. Ross in Leland-Stanford jr. There is the same degree of specialization and except for the new subject of colonies and colonization the work offered is identical.

EXHIBIT 5. Article, "Sociology: Its Position in the Curriculum of University Studies," *Scarlet and Cream*, Vol. 3, No. 7, November 1, 1901: 3-4. This turn-of-the-century essay in a student publication outlines the early history of sociology at the University of Nebraska.

The University of Chicago

5811 Madison Avenue,  
June 8, 1904.

Dear Sir:

With pleasure I accept your courteous invitation to read a paper at the International Congress of Arts and Science next September. I shall be very glad if at an early date you will arrange for the conference mentioned in your letter; so that I may at once begin correspondence with Mr. Dike.

Thanking you for the honor conferred upon me by this invitation, I am,  
most cordially yours,  
George E. Howard.

Professor Albion W. Small.

EXHIBIT 6. Letter, George E. Howard to Albion W. Small, June 8, 1904 (*University of Chicago Department of Special Collections*). Howard accepts Small's invitation to present at the International Congress of Arts and Sciences at the St. Louis Exposition. Howard was then teaching history at the University of Chicago where Small chaired the Department of Sociology. 1904 marked the publication of Howard's *History of Matrimonial Institutions* (University of Chicago Press) and his return to the University of Nebraska faculty where, in 1906, he became chair of the Department of Political Science and Sociology.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF SOCIETY



NATURE AND SCOPE

This the department of sociology closest to psychology, might be termed psychological sociology. Studies the planes and currents that arise among men in consequence of their association. It seeks to understand and account for those uniformities in feeling, belief or opinion (and hence in action) which are due to social causes.

S. P. pays no attention to non-psychic parallelisms among men (an epidemic of la grippe, the prevalence of malaria among the early settlers along the Wabash) or to psychic parallelisms that result therefrom, e.g., an affinity for hell-fire doctrines in consequence of the ravages of chills and fevers among pioneers.

S. P. pays no attention to uniformities among people produced by the direct action of a common physical environment (superstitiousness of sailors (Buckle), the addiction of Englishman in the tropics to the cork helmet, low building in earthquake countries, contrast of northern and southern dress, Southern verandas) or by subjection to similar conditions (the dissipatedness of school teachers, the hardness of the wilderness worker, the city. e.g. Sea

To Dr. George Elliot Howard  
This the only published copy of my third book.  
is presented with kind regards.  
Edward A. Ross.

EXHIBIT 7. Typescript, page 1 from Edward A. Ross' draft of *Social Psychology*, August 28, 1906 (University of Nebraska Archives). As a gift, Ross presented the specially bound manuscript to George E. Howard. *Social Psychology* was subsequently published in 1908, after Ross' move to the University of Wisconsin.

SEMINARY ON MUNICIPAL PROBLEMS.

December 3, 1907.

By Hattie Plum Williams.

THE INFLUENCE OF FOREIGN IMMIGRANTS ON THE AMERICAN CITY

A. Influence of foreign elements on American cities in general.

I. INTRODUCTION.

1. The size of the problem.
2. Origin of the problem.
  - a. The first great immigration (1842-1882).
  - b. The new immigration (1882 - the present).
3. Distribution of immigrants.
  - a. Tendency toward the cities.
  - b. Causes for massing.
    - (a) How far influenced by previous conditions and by motives for migration.

II. IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR ECONOMIC EFFECTS ON THE CITY.  
(Report Industrial Commission, 1901, Vol. XV).

1. Conflicting opinions of general economic effects.
2. "They lower wages in the city".
  - a. By overstocking the labor market.
    - (1) Character of labor market.
    - (2) Classes most affected.
    - (3) Competition of women.
    - (4) Child labor - proportion among city foreigners (Bulletin 69, Dept. Commerce and Labor).
  - b. By maintaining a lower standard of living.
    - (1) The "slum" and "foreign quarter" convertible terms.
    - (2) Average cost of living compared with American standard.
3. Introduction of new systems of labor.
  - a. Sweat shop.
  - b. Task system.
  - c. Padrone system.
4. Influence on rise and growth of classes.
5. Relation to Union Labor.

III. THE IMMIGRANT AND MUNICIPAL POLITICS. (Jane Addams)

1. Admission to political partnership.
  - a. Naturalization law.
  - b. Effect of state election laws on the former.
  - c. Tendency of immigrants to citizenship.

EXHIBIT 8. Mimeo, page 1 of presentation outline by Hattie Plum Williams, December 3, 1907 (*University of Nebraska Archives*). This work, begun in G.E. Howard's graduate seminar on municipal problems, led to Williams' 1915 doctoral thesis, *A Social Study of the Russian German*. Williams was elevated to the chair of the Department of Sociology at Nebraska in 1923.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
POLITICAL SCIENCE AND SOCIOLOGY

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THE  
FAMILY AND MARRIAGE

An Analytical Reference Syllabus

BY

GEORGE ELLIOTT HOWARD, Ph.D.

Head Professor of Political Science and Sociology

---

PUBLISHED BY THE UNIVERSITY  
LINCOLN, 1914

Price: 75cts.

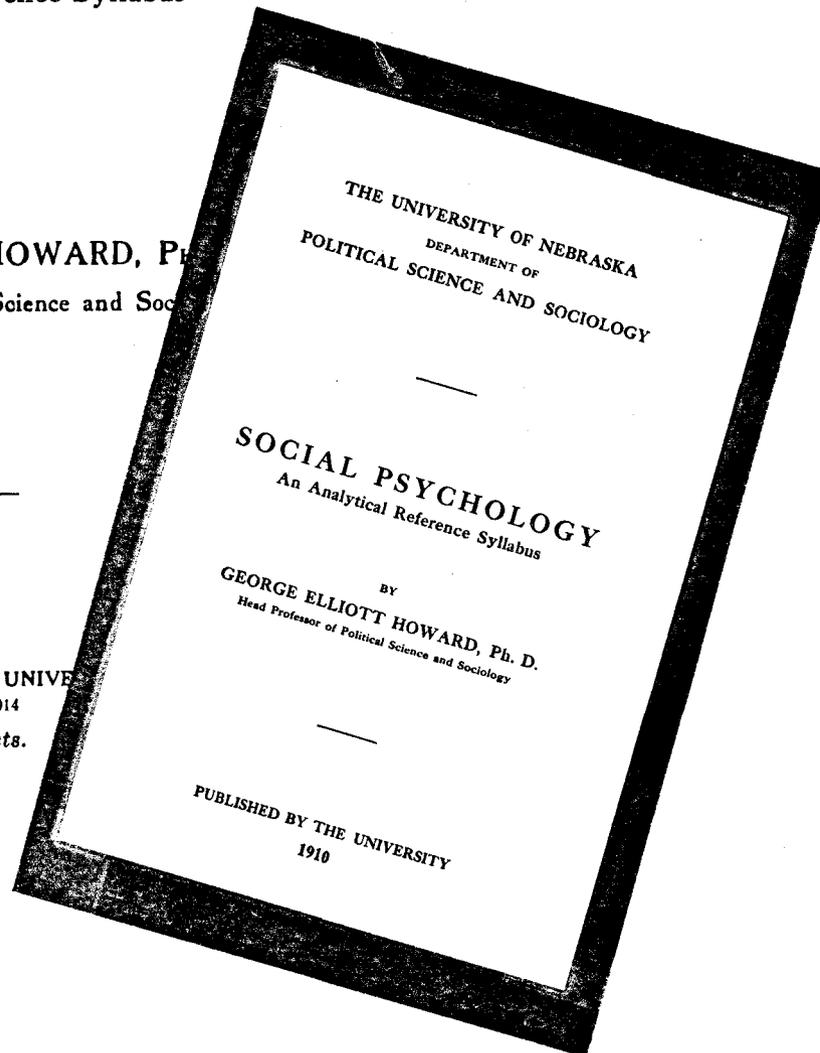


EXHIBIT 9. Selected title pages from George E. Howard's course syllabi. The printed syllabus on *The Family and Marriage* (1914) ran to 177 pages. Howard prepared a dozen such syllabi on a wide range of topics.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

Hereby designates

George Elliott Howard, Ph. D.,

Professor of Political Science and Sociology,

as its representative at the Second Pan American  
Scientific Congress to be held at Washington, D. C.

December 27, 1915-January 8, 1916.

Attest: 



By the Chancellor



Lincoln, Nebraska

December twentieth

Nineteen hundred fifteen.

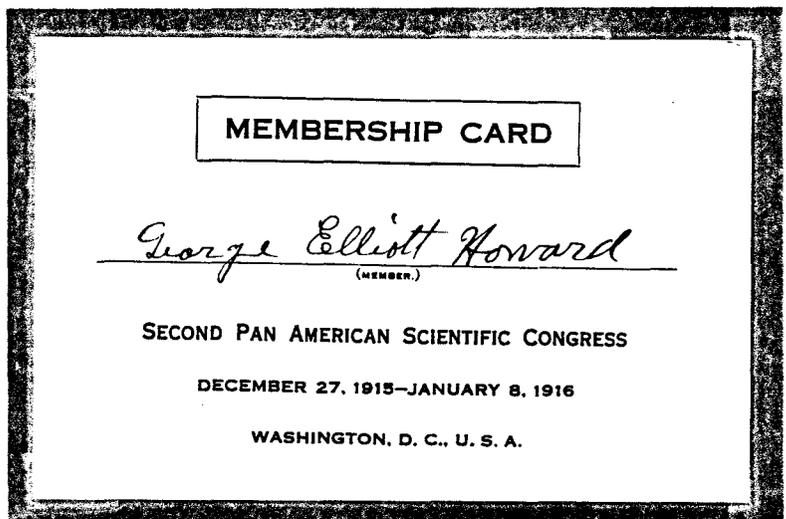


EXHIBIT 10. George Elliott Howard's credentials for the Pan American Scientific Congress, 1915-16 (*University of Nebraska Archives*). Howard represented the University of Nebraska and American sociology at these interdisciplinary meetings and auxiliary gatherings. As an official delegate, Howard was invited to dine with President Woodrow Wilson at The White House on January 7, 1916.

506  
Sm6m  
Sociology. 1841-1913.  
Ward, Lester Frank. Moral progress  
(Transactions of the Anthro-  
pology of Washington In-  
stitution.  
Wash. 1897

301  
TL7  
Sociology  
Tarde, Gabriel de, 1843-1904.  
Social laws; an outline of sci-  
ence derived from the French lan-  
guage by James M. ...  
company.

300  
Sm1a  
Sociology. Albion Smith & modern  
study in the meth-  
sciences.

392.3  
L557o  
1875  
Sociology  
Le Play, Pierre Guillaume Frédéric, 1804-1881.  
La constitution essentielle de  
l'exposé des principes et de  
la prospérité ou la dé-  
cadence des sociétés  
fam. P.

307  
D93r  
1938  
Sociology  
Durkheim, Émile, 1858-1917.  
The rules of sociological method  
Durkheim ... 8th ed., transl  
Solovay and John H. M...  
George E.G. Cat...  
Univers...

301	Sociology
B293	Bassett, John, 1827-1911.
	Social theory 550p
	D. NY 1895.
	of economics & political
	x 7)

EXHIBIT 11. Selected "sociology" examples from the old subject card catalog at the University of Nebraska library. The well-thumbed cards were decommissioned in 1997 when they were supplanted by an on-line computer catalog.

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL  
OF  
SOCIOLOGY



EDITOR  
N W. SMALL

ASSOCIATE EDITORS  
ON MAR  
CH  
W

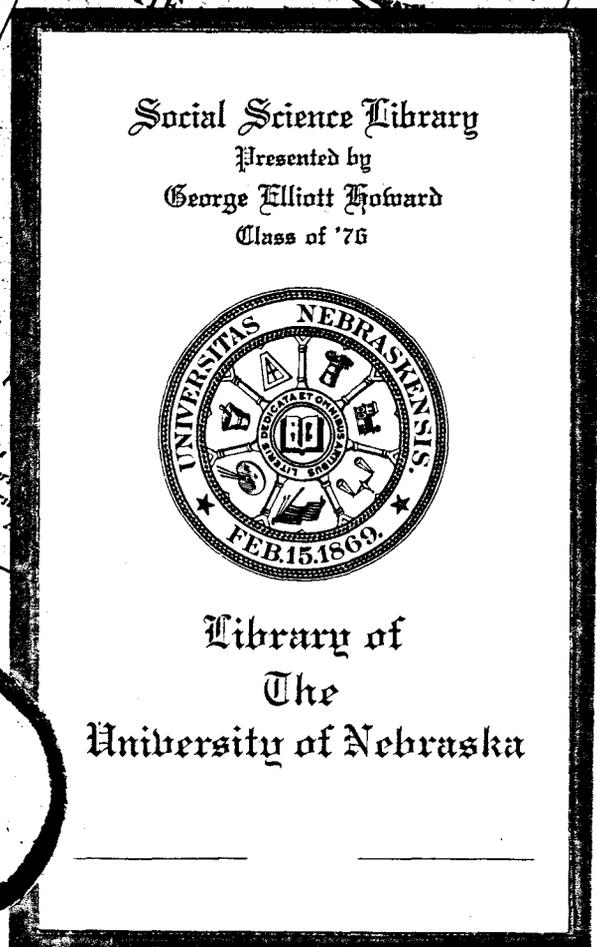
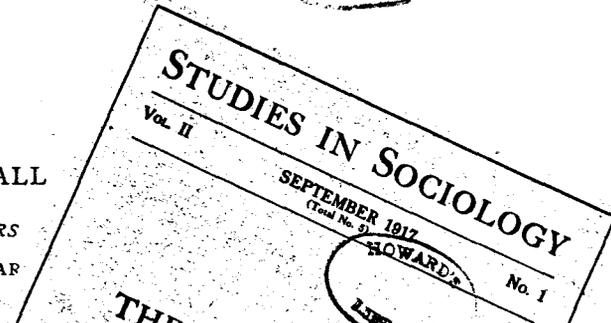


EXHIBIT 12. "Howard's Library" stamp and bookplates. G.E. Howard gave his private collection of three to four thousand social science volumes to the University of Nebraska. His personal stamp and the bookplates acknowledging his gift are still visible in numerous books and journals, including the early volumes of the *American Journal of Sociology*, in the collections in Love Library.

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