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# A Brief Centennial Bibliography Of Resources On The History Of The American Sociological Society/Association

Michael R. Hill

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln*, [michaelhilltemporary1@yahoo.com](mailto:michaelhilltemporary1@yahoo.com)

Susan Hoecker-Drysdale

*Centennial Bibliography Project Committee*

Jack Nusan Porter

*Centennial Bibliography Project Committee*

Pamela A. Roby


*Centennial Bibliography Project Committee*

Kathleen Slobin

*Centennial Bibliography Project Committee*

*See next page for additional authors*

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**Authors**

Michael R. Hill, Susan Hoecker-Drysdale, Jack Nusan Porter, Pamela A. Roby, Kathleen Slobin, and Roberta Spalter-Roth

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## A BRIEF CENTENNIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF RESOURCES ON THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY/ASSOCIATION<sup>1</sup>

Compiled by the  
Centennial Bibliography Project Committee<sup>2</sup>  
American Sociological Association Section on the History of Sociology

**C**ELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION provides the ritual occasion and reinforces the intellectual rationale for collectively exploring our professional and organizational roots. To guide us on our way, we have compiled a brief bibliography of relevant materials and exemplars that explicate the early history of the American Sociological Society and – to some degree – its subsequent evolution (the line separating “history” from “current events” is not always easily drawn). Practicing extreme parsimony, we have intentionally excluded literally thousands of otherwise important and instructive published works that focus primarily on specific departments of sociology, the ideas and accomplishments of individual sociologists, the development of sociological theories, the general intellectual history of the discipline as a whole, and myriad other matters of obvious historical and disciplinary interest. We hasten to add, however, that the structure and practical scope of a much more inclusive bibliography is now under consideration and is soon to be implemented. In the interim, we provide here a small down payment: a narrowly defined set of references for selected articles – and still fewer monographs – that specifically address, in various ways, the founding era and subsequent evolution of the American Sociological Society as a professional organization. To these citations, we add lists of relevant journals, abstracts, indexes and databases, and append the locations of archival deposits for the first ten presidents of the American Sociological Society, with the hope of encouraging ever more scholarship on the early history of the ASS/ASA per se.<sup>3</sup> Corrections and suggested additions to this bibliography, focused specifically on the history of the ASS/ASA, are welcomed by the committee. [Submitted December 2004 by the Centennial Bibliography Project Committee].

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<sup>2</sup>Michael R. Hill (co-chair), Susan Hoecker-Drysdale (ex-officio), Jack Nusan Porter (co-chair), Pamela A. Roby, Kathleen Slobin, and Roberta Spalter-Roth.

<sup>3</sup> Unfortunately, the early archival Records of the American Sociological Association, once housed at the U.S. Library of Congress, contain virtually no materials related to the formative years of the organization, but do include many items from 1931 to 1986, with the bulk of the materials concentrated within the years 1950 to 1979. These materials were recently removed to Pennsylvania State University. A finding aid is available (*See also*: Michael R. Hill and Mary Jo Deegan, “The Archival Records of the American Sociological Association at the U.S. Library of Congress: An Inventory and Introduction.” American Sociological Association/National Science Foundation, Problems of the Discipline Grant Program. Final report. Lincoln, NE: Department of Sociology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1990).

## Journals

- American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 1 (1895-) – [The quasi-official journal, until 1936, of the American Sociological Society].
- American Sociological Review*, Vol. 1 (1936-) – [The official journal of the American Sociological Association; the earliest issues are replete with organizational notices and reports].
- American Sociologist*, Vol. 1 (1965-) – [Early issues, officially published by the ASA, include ASA Council minutes, program notes, relevant articles and discussions, etc.; subsequently revived by Transaction Publishers, later issues include articles on disciplinary history].
- Footnotes* (1973-) – [The official newsletter of the American Sociological Association; a trove of information concerning recent programs and activities of the Association].
- Journal of the History of Sociology*, Vols. 1-5 (1978-1983); continued by the *History of Sociology*, Vols. 5-7 (1985-1987). [An important repository of articles on the intellectual and disciplinary history of sociology].
- Papers and Proceedings of the American Sociological Society*, Vols. 1-29 (1906-1934). [An especially valuable resource, includes minutes of ASS meetings, committee reports, membership lists, etc. Some – but not all – of the materials appearing in the *Papers and Proceedings* were also published in the *American Journal of Sociology*].
- Sociological Origins*, Vol. 1 (1998-) – [Documents, articles, and symposia on the history of sociology].
- Sociological Papers*, Vols. 1-3 (1905-1907). [Published by the Sociological Society (London), and a precursor to the *Sociological Review*, provides an instructive organizational contrast with the disciplinary scene then emerging at the same time in the USA].

## Useful Abstracts, Indexes, and Searchable Databases<sup>4</sup>

American Periodicals Series Online 1740-1900  
 ARLIN [Especially useful for locating archival materials].  
 Bio-Base  
 Biography and Genealogy Master Index  
 Dissertation Abstracts  
 JSTOR  
 PCI: Periodicals Contents Index  
 Sociological Abstracts  
 WorldCat

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<sup>4</sup> The availability of these resources varies by research facility and institutional budget. For information, access, and alternative search strategies, consult your local reference librarian and/or social science bibliographer.

### Selected Articles and Monographs

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**The First Ten Presidents of the American Sociological Society (1906-1920):  
A Partial List of Primary Archival Resources<sup>5</sup>**

**Lester Frank Ward (1906-07)<sup>6</sup>**

- Lester Frank Ward Papers (Record Unit 7321). Smithsonian Institution Archives, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC.
- Lester Frank Ward Papers. Brown University Archives, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island.
- Lester Frank Ward Papers. Archives and Special Collections, George Washington University.
- Lester Frank Ward Papers. Library of Congress, Manuscripts Division, Washington, DC.

**William Graham Sumner (1908-09)**

- William G. Sumner Papers. Yale University Library, New Haven, Connecticut.
- Sumner-Keller Collection. Yale University Library, New Haven, Connecticut.

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<sup>5</sup> The deposits listed here are primary sediments that rarely exhaust the materials to be found elsewhere in other collections and in other repositories. Photographs of each ASA President are available via the ASA website. For an accessible introduction to research methodologies for exploring archival materials such as the papers and collections listed here, *see*: Michael R. Hill, *Archival Strategies and Techniques* (Qualitative Research Methods series, Vol. 31), Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications, 1993.

<sup>6</sup> The dates in parentheses following each president's name indicate year(s) in office.

**Franklin Henry Giddings (1910-11)**

Franklin H. Giddings Correspondence, 1890-1902. Columbia University Archives, Columbia University, New York City, New York.

**Albion Woodbury Small (1912-13)**

Albion W. Small Papers. Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

**Edward Alsworth Ross (1914-15)**

Edward A. Ross Papers. State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin. [A massive collection, available on microfilm via interlibrary loan].

Edward A. Ross Papers. Special Collections and University Archives, Stanford University, Stanford, California.

Edward A. Ross Bio-Bibliography File, Class Records [restricted access], and scattered items in other collections. University Archives, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska.

**George Edgar Vincent (1916)**

Scattered items in various collections. Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

George E. Vincent Papers. University Archives, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota. [Vincent was University president].

Various files. Rockefeller Foundation Archives, New York City, New York. [Vincent was the Foundation president from 1917-1929].

**George Elliot Howard (1917)**

George E. Howard Papers. University Archives, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Scattered items in various collections. Special Collections and University Archives, Stanford University, Stanford, California.

Scattered items in various collections. Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

**Charles Horton Cooley (1918)**

Charles Horton Cooley Papers. Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

**Frank Wilson Blackmar (1919)**

Scattered items in various collections. Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas. [Blackmar's personal papers were apparently pulped and recycled during a WWII paper drive].

**James Quale Dealey (1920)**

Scattered items in various collections. Brown University Archives, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island.

Various lectures by Dealey, in Record Groups 4 and 15, The Naval Historical Collection, Naval War College Library, Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island.