



Guide to the Charles A. Ellwood papers, 1889-1946

This collection guide was produced in **2003**.

This PDF version was created on **April 3, 2026**.

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

Durham 27708

askRL@duke.edu

URL: <http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

Table of Contents

Summary	3
Background	4
Administrative Information	5
Names and Subjects	6
Collection Inventory	6
Papers	6
Printed Materials	8
Subject Files	11
Writings	13

Summary

Collection Title:

Charles A. Ellwood papers, 1889-1946

Creator:

Ellwood, Charles A. (Charles Abram), 1873-1946

Abstract:

Charles Abram Ellwood (1873-1946) established the Department of Sociology at Duke University in 1930, retiring in 1944. The papers feature incoming and outgoing correspondence, chiefly professional but with some personal exchanges; minutes and other records of Pi Gamma Mu; book and article manuscripts; speeches; news clippings and book reviews; and some photographs. There are some papers related to his teaching career, chiefly related to summer school appointments and his positions at Missouri and Duke. A microfilm copy of a scrapbook (circa 1900-1946) contains clippings from Ellwood's career. Professional topics in the papers cover discussion and criticism of Ellwood's books, articles, and views; international and U.S. sociology organizations; the sociology departments at the University of Missouri and Duke University; social ethics; criminology; the social function of religion; and the scientific and statistical approach to sociology. Issues in Ellwood's papers related to crises of the time include race relations; political systems and beliefs; Fascism; persecution of Jews in Europe; U.S. involvement in World War II; religion and ethics; militarism and pacifism; and compulsory conscription.

Extent:

6.5 Linear Feet (14 boxes)

Language:

Materials in English

Collection ID:

UA.29.02.0022

Permalink:

<https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/uellwood/>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Charles Ellwood papers, Duke University Archives, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Background

Scope and Content

The papers of sociologist Charles A. Ellwood feature incoming and outgoing correspondence, chiefly professional but with some personal exchanges; minutes and other records of Pi Gamma Mu; book and article manuscripts; speeches; news clippings and book reviews; and some photographs. There are some papers related to his teaching career, chiefly related to summer school appointments and his positions at University of Missouri--Columbia and Duke University. A microfilm copy of a scrapbook (circa 1900-1946) contains clippings from Ellwood's career. Professional topics in the papers cover discussion and criticism of Ellwood's books, articles, and views; international and U.S. sociology organizations; the sociology departments at the University of Missouri and Duke University; social ethics; criminology; the social function of religion; and the scientific and statistical approach to sociology. Issues in Ellwood's papers related to crises of the time include race relations; political systems and beliefs; Fascism; persecution of Jews in Europe; U.S. involvement in World War II; religion and ethics; militarism and pacifism; and compulsory conscription.

Biographical/Historical

Charles Abram Ellwood established the Department of Sociology at Duke University in 1930. He was born in the rural community of Black Lake near Ogdensburg, New York, on January 20, 1873. Ellwood earned his bachelor's degree from Cornell University in 1896 and his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. He married Ida Breckenridge in 1897. He continued his studies in Europe at the University of Berlin, Oxford University, and the University of London. Ellwood served as Head of the Department of Sociology at the University of Missouri and then moved to Duke University in 1930.

His numerous writings, such as *Social Problems, a Sociology* (1932) and *The World's Need of Christ* (1940), focus on social psychology, religion and ethics, social scientific methods, criminology, and the family. Heavily influenced by the work of Charles H. Cooley, Ellwood believed in social reform and human improvement through rational evolution, and was a supporter of eugenics to some degree. In 1912 or 1913, he gave a lecture at Missouri, "The Eugenics Movement from the Standpoint of Sociology," which was chosen as part of a book, *Eugenics: Twelve University Lectures*, published by the Dodd, Mead & Company in 1914.

Ellwood actively participated in several national and international organizations, including International Congress of Arts and Science, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Sociological Society, Pi Gamma Mu National Social Science Honor Society, the International Congress

of Sociology, and the National Education Association. He served as advisory editor of the American Journal of Sociology and as associate editor of the Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology. Ellwood retired from Duke University in 1944; he died in Durham, N.C., September 25, 1946.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

Durham 27708

askRL@duke.edu

URL: <http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Acquisition Information

The papers were received as a transfer on April 11, 1973 (Accession number: 73-62).

Accession UA2019.0047 received as a gift, 2019.

Use Restrictions

Copyright for official University records is held by Duke University; all other copyright is retained by the authors of items in these papers or their descendants, as stipulated by United States copyright law.

Literary rights to letters written by John Dewey held by the Center for Dewey Studies, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois.

Processing Information

Originally processed by Jill Katte, June 2002

Accession UA2019.0047 added and collection level notes updated by Tracy M. Jackson, July 2019.

Rehoused, contents list created, and collection guide updated, Paula Jeannet and Alanna Styer, December 2019.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- College teachers -- Correspondence
- Criminology
- Religion -- Study and teaching
- Social psychology
- Social sciences -- Methodology
- Sociologists -- Correspondence
- Sociology -- History -- 20th century
- Sociology -- Study and teaching (Higher) -- United States
- Durham (N.C.) -- Intellectual life
- North Carolina
- Photographs
- Scrapbooks
- American Sociological Society
- Duke University -- Faculty
- Duke University. Department of Sociology
- Ellwood, Charles A. (Charles Abram), 1873-1946
- Pi Gamma Mu

Collection Inventory

Papers, circa 1889-1946

Scope and Contents

Folders contain background information on sociologist Charles H. Ellwood; correspondence files, chiefly professional with some family letters scattered through later years; some photographs; teaching materials; and a positive microfilm reel of Ellwood's scrapbook relating chiefly to his career.

Correspondence is chiefly to and from colleagues, with many in European countries and in Japan. Some relate to publishing and service in organizations; others discuss sociological issues, often at length. Exchanges between long-time

colleagues or former students are more personal, particularly as infirmities and losses come with advanced age.

Biographical information on Charles Ellwood
and genealogy of Ellwood family, circa
1920-1944

Box 1

Scope and Contents

Contains a 4-page typescript of "Circular issued by Brigadier General Isaac Ellwood on taking command of the 11th Brigade of New York State Infantry, April 4th, 1829." This is followed by several copies of Ellwood's resume, list of publications, his autobiographical essay, with a few fragment pages attached, and several copies of a lengthy letter from an Ellwood cousin with a genealogy of various branches of the Ellwood family.

Bibliographies, 1937-1944

Box 1

Scope and Contents

Chief item of interest is one 34-page soft-bound typescript bibliography of Ellwood's writings and writings about him, compiled in 1944 by Duke reference librarian MaryVie Cramblitt, with preface, introduction, and index. Also includes small group of loose sheets containing lists of publications by sociology faculty at Duke University, 1937-1941.

Correspondence, 1892-1923

Box 1

Physical Description: 6 folders

Correspondence, 1924-1933

Box 2

Physical Description: 5 folders

Correspondence, 1933-1936

Box 3

Physical Description: 4 folders

Correspondence, 1936-1946

Box 4

Physical Description: 5 folders

Correspondence and cards with no dates, circa
1920s-1944

Box 5

Scope and Contents

Undated letters, Christmas cards, and postcards.

Photographs, 1910s-1930s

Box 5

Scope and Contents

Photographs of Ellwood residence and from travels. Also contains postcards. Locations include France, Monte-Carlo, Maine, and Sicily.

Teaching: Final Exams Soc. 102 and Anthro. -
Duke University, 1935-1944 Box 5

Teaching: Summer School - Colorado,
1915-1924 Box 5

Teaching: Summer School - University of
Southern California, 1923-1926 Box 5

Photograph: Panorama of large group of men
and women on snowy slope, Ward, Colorado,
1917-06-01 Box 6

Scope and Contents

Measures 12 3/4 x 5 1/4 inches. Written on back: "Taken June 30, 1917 on the twentieth anniversary of our marriage."

Sociology notebook with early reading or
lecture notes, circa 1889 Box 6

Scope and Contents

Hard-bound notebook labeled "Sociology" and underneath perhaps an instructor's name.

Scrapbook (microfilm on reel), circa 1900-1946 Box 8

Scope and Contents

Positive microfilm of scrapbook assembled by Ellwood and chiefly containing clippings and other professional publicity. Negative copy may be available in Perkins Library microfilm collection.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Printed Materials, 1890-1946

Scope and Contents

A wide variety of professional materials that include programs, conference materials, cards, fliers, and articles and clippings by and about Charles Ellwood.

Some of the paper is embrittled; please handle with care. Folder contents are arranged in rough chronological order.

Certificates, publicity and programs, 1890-1946 Box 6

Physical Description: 2 folders

Scope and Contents

Begins with early education materials, including 1890 society yearbook from Ogdensburg Academy and Ellwood's 1890 graduation certificate. Subsequent materials include publicity about Ellwood's writings, short articles by Ellwood and others, clippings, letters to the editor, cards, tickets, and event programs. Arranged in rough chronological order. Oversize State Department passports and other certificates removed to oversize housing.

Diploma, travel documents, summer school poster, 1890-1927 Box 14

Scope and Contents

Ogdenburg Academy graduation certificate and two State Department-issued travel documents, 1897 and 1914, one with Ellwood's photograph attached. Also includes summer school poster from the Colorado Agricultural College, 1927.

Certificates, publicity and programs, 1913-1946 Box 7

Scope and Contents

Chiefly clipped articles, letters to the editor, program cards, publicity for Ellwood's publications, personal items such as insurance advertisement, and some certificates.

Early clippings, 1902-1930s Box 7

Clippings Box 7

Physical Description: 4 folders

Scope and Contents

Many of these items speak to wartime concerns. Topics include morality and war; conscription; atomic power; integration; and socialism/cooperatives. Titles from which clippings were taken include: The Catholic Worker; Reporter; The New Leader; The Orphan's Friend and Masonic Journal; Congressional Record; Pi Gamma Mu; Independent Woman; Harvard University Gazette; The Italian Mail; The Llano Colonist; and The Nation. Not arranged in date order. Oversize items have been separated and rehoused.

Oversize clippings and articles, 1926-1940s Box 14

Scope and Contents

Of note are issues from The New Leader, 1946; a newsletter from the Llano Cooperative in Louisiana (1926); and a broadside about conscription.

Poster on U.S. military conscription, 1947 or 1948

Box 14

Scope and Contents

Poster questioning military draft includes statistics and quotes from Federal hearings. Measures approx. 17x22 inches.

Reprints, articles, journal Issues, 1902-1926

Box 8

Physical Description: 2 folders

Scope and Contents

Chiefly early reprints of Ellwood's writings, with some journal issues, mostly the Psychological Bulletin; also includes many essays and excerpts, and some programs. Arranged in rough chronological order.

Articles, extracts, galleys, letters to the editor, 1906-1927

Box 8

Scope and Contents

Early sociology pieces by Ellwood, including several original typescripts; there are also some galley proofs. Arranged in rough chronological order. Oversize materials have been separated and rehoused.

Letter to the editor, article, galley proofs, 1909, 1925 and undated

Box 14

Scope and Contents

Oversize materials include an issue of the serial The Nation, 1909, with letter to the editor by Ellwood; an article by Ellwood on family and religion, and undated galley proofs for encyclopedia entries on pauperism.

Reprints, articles, 1905-1930

Box 9

Scope and Contents

Roughly 18 reprints of Ellwood's sociology writings, and some letters to the editor. Includes a 1910 issue of social reform publication The Survey with a photo of Harlem boy by Lewis Hine on the cover. Arranged in rough chronological order.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Subject Files, 1900-1946

Scope and Contents

Original order has been retained. Contains a wide variety of genres, chiefly short writings, mostly academic. Many reflect on significant issues of the day, including race, violence, religious and civil freedom, political society, pacifism, and war. Other folders document Ellwood's role in professional organizations. This series includes many of Ellwood's writings, most notably book reviews and letters to the editor; other pieces are found in the Writings series. Folder contents are arranged in rough chronological order.

Abstracts, circa 1943 Box 9

Scope and Contents

Several abstracts, one of which is from an edited work titled *Social Forces*, published in 1944.

American Sociological Society and Southern
Sociology Society, 1920-1946 Box 9

Anthropology, 1918-1945 Box 9

Scope and Contents

Academic articles, book chapters, and extensive lecture notes on anthropology. The earliest date appears to be a lecture notes from a course taught by Ellwood.

Biographies, 1920s Box 9

Scope and Contents

Includes biography of Charles H. Cooley, one of Ellwood's mentors.

Book reviews (by Ellwood), 1904-1918 Box 9

Scope and Contents

Drafts and finished pieces. The two earliest reviews, 1904 and 1905 deal with books on race and miscegenation by Thomas Nelson Page and William Benjamin Smith.

Book reviews (by Ellwood), 1920-1943 Box 10

Physical Description: 2 folders

Scope and Contents

Drafts and finished pieces.

Book reviews of Ellwood's writings, 1915-circa
1940

Box 10

Scope and Contents

Several reviews appear in French and Italian journals.

Charity Organization Society, 1900-1945

Box 10

Scope and Contents

Organization in Nebraska with which Ellwood was closely affiliated and served as Secretary.

Christianity and Social Science (1923) - reviews,
1920s

Box 10

Criminology, 1907-1911

Box 10

Miscellaneous topics, 1901-1929

Box 10

Scope and Contents

An assortment of writings by Ellwood, chiefly letters to the editor, small essays, some reviews, poems, and fliers for Ellwood's early lectures. A few are in German. Most of these materials date from his Missouri days. Of interest are two pieces on race: one is a 1945 declaration by the INTERdependence, Inc., of Los Angeles, "Racial Appreciation: a Practical Approach," a one-sheet detailed proposal for an emblem for businesses and non-profits who do not condone discrimination on the basis of "human pigmentation." The other is a public statement by Ellwood following a remark he made about lynching and its relation to a community's morals to a class on criminology. Oversize chart separated and rehoused.

Oversize manuscript chart mapping themes
from Ratzenhofer's "Ideal Civilization", circa
1904

Box 14

Scope and Contents

Measures approximately 12x17 inches.

N.C. Conference for Social Service, 1933-1934

Box 10

Pi Gamma Mu, 1932-1936

Box 11

Scope and Contents

Chiefly reports, conference agendas, and bylaws.

Programs, 1901-1930 Box 11

Psychology of Human Society (1925), 1925 and undated Box 11

Religion, 1930-1946 Box 11

Scope and Contents

Many of these relate to religious themes as they relate to the rise of Fascism, the plight of Jews, and violent conflicts of the period.

Reconstruction of Religion (1922), 1922-1924 Box 11

Scottish Rite Progress, 1925-1929 and undated Box 11

Scope and Contents

Mostly pages from the Masons' newsletter containing articles by or about Ellwood.

Sociologist, 1945 and undated Box 11

Scope and Contents

A folder of biographical sketches, a clipping from the Durham Herald newspaper, 1945, and reprints of Charles Ellwood, compiled by an unknown person, with a written inscription " My beloved major professor and friend - a world renown sociologist. His life and a few reprints."

University of Missouri, 1901-1930 Box 11

Scope and Contents

Department handbook, syllabus of lectures, fliers and programs, and a few other items.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Writings, 1896-1946

Scope and Contents

Original order has been retained. Contains academic writings by Charles Ellwood in the form of chapter drafts, articles, editorials, lectures, and speeches, many with annotations, almost all relating to sociology and related

academic topics. Many speak to significant issues of the day, including race relations, eugenics, and political society. Later pieces from the 1930s and early 1940s reflect the issues of totalitarianism, religious conflict, and war. This series includes many of Ellwood's writings, most notably book reviews and letters to the editor; other pieces are found in the Writings series. Folder contents are arranged in rough chronological order.

Conscription: Resistance, circa 1944-1946 Box 11

Scope and Contents

Contains a cluster of editorials, articles, and an issue of "Conscription News," all related to Ellwood's stance against compulsory conscription.

Cultural Evolution (1927), circa 1927-1928 Box 11

Scope and Contents

Complete annotated typescript and proofs draft, chapter abstracts, and review.

Cultural Evolution II, circa 1927 Box 12

Die Leuchte, 1925-1929 Box 12

Scope and Contents

Issues of German journal and one issue of another title, containing references to Ellwood.

Duke, 1930s Box 12

Scope and Contents

Writings chiefly related to the vision of the new Sociology Department, a proposal for a new Social Sciences Building, and publicity regarding new faculty. Includes a sociology lecture by Ellwood and readings list.

Duke Press, 1930s Box 12

Scope and Contents

Introduction to a translation of Czech sociologist Chalupny's work, Dynamic Sociology.

Education, 1930s Box 12

Scope and Contents

Various drafts of articles on the sociology of education and one on social studies in the classroom.

A History of Social Philosophy (1938), 1938 and undated	Box 12
International Institute of Sociology, 1935-1937	Box 12
Introductions and editorials, 1935	Box 12
Introduction to Social Psychology (1917) - reviews, 1917-1919	Box 12
Man's Social Destiny (1930) - reviews, 1929-1930	Box 12
Marriage and the Family, 1925-1944	Box 12
Methods in Sociology (1933), 1930-1940	Box 12

Scope and Contents

Complete or near-complete typescript draft, and drafts of related articles and reviews.

The Social Problem (1915) - reviews, 1915	Box 13
Sociology - general articles, 1930s-1940s	Box 13

Scope and Contents

Mostly undated, but seem to be from the 1930s and 1940s. Includes a lecture or speech on "Evolutionary pacifism."

Speeches by Ellwood, 1898-1944	Box 13
--------------------------------	--------

Scope and Contents

Presidential addresses, lectures, and various speeches. Includes his retirement speech at Duke. The earliest is titled "The marks of a sociological method that shall be adequate to construct a scientific basis for social control," written for Dr. Georg Simmel, the University of Berlin. One lecture from 1924 is on "Intolerance," and mentions the Ku Klux Klan. The last, "Valedictory," is Ellwood's retirement speech.

Thesis by Charles Ellwood, Cornell University:
"The relation of the social sciences to ethics: an
historical study" , 1896 Box 13

Scope and Contents

Original manuscript copy.

The World's Need of Christ (1940), after 1940 Box 13

Scope and Contents

Complete typescript draft, followed by several reviews.

World War II, 1924-circa 1944 Box 13

Scope and Contents

Prefaced by several early pieces, some relating to the economic crises of the 1930s, including a revised draft of the Home Colonies Plan by Princess Lazarovich (born Eleanor Calhoun) submitted to President Roosevelt. There are materials from the Emergency Peace Campaign of 1936 and post-war peace efforts. There are a group of short editorials or lectures by Ellwood on the war, militarism, peace efforts, and totalitarianism. Also includes "Adjustment of the College Curriculum to Wartime Conditions and Needs, Report No. 3. Sociology," several pages with directions from the U.S. Office of Education, 1942.

Writings by Others: Autobiography by Charles
H. Cooley, undated Box 13

Scope and Contents

Cooley was an influential mentor to Charles Ellwood.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)