

A VERY SHORT HISTORY OF PARASITOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA.

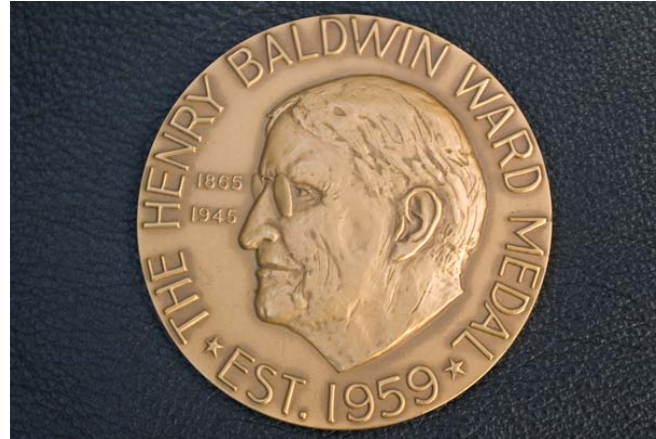
The Science of Parasitology has a deep history at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The first lecture course in parasitology in the western hemisphere was taught at here at UNL in 1896 by Professor Henry Baldwin Ward. Ward had received training in parasitology and invertebrate zoology by working as a student of the world-famous Rudolph Leuckart of Leipzig, Germany. Prof. Leuckart was an authority on the invertebrates and he founded a laboratory of parasitology in Leipzig in the late 1800's. H.B. Ward finished his work in Germany and attended Harvard University for his doctoral work; he finished his Ph.D. there in 1892.

H.B. Ward took a position as associate professor at the University of Nebraska in 1893. He received tenure and was promoted to full professor in 1896. While at Nebraska he published a series of papers on the parasites of humans and discovered the presence in the United States of the human lung fluke, *Paragonimus*. He also started a publication series at Nebraska called *Studies from the Zoological Laboratory* that was, in many ways, groundbreaking, and provided an outlet for the research in parasitology going on at the University of Nebraska during the time of rapid expansion and development of a research university in Nebraska.

H.B. Ward played a major role in developing a two-year premedical course at the University of Nebraska and in 1902 he became the first dean of the University of Nebraska College of Medicine that was newly established at Lincoln in affiliation with the Omaha Medical College. In 1909, however, plans were made to move the Lincoln unit to the Omaha campus. When it became clear that, because of rivalries between the two medical faculties, Ward would not be retained as dean after the move, he resigned.

In the fall of 1909 Ward moved to the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign as head of the Department of Zoology. He stayed in this position until he retired in 1933. During his time in academia, he established one of the first research laboratories in the United States to offer a graduate degree in parasitology. The large number of students who he trained to the level of Ph.D. later made significant contributions to the growth of this science world-wide. For example, he trained Franklin Barker, who was head of the Zoology department at UNL and who continued to teach Parasitology here in Nebraska until Harold W. Manter came to UNL in 1925. Manter, who also had studied with Ward, made significant contributions to the science of parasitology and trained many more parasitologists in the USA and world-wide.

To provide an outlet for publishing the results of zoological research from U of Illinois and elsewhere, and with the help of Stephen A. Forbes and William Trelease, Ward inaugurated in 1914, the series called the "[Illinois Biological Monographs](#)." That same year (1914) he also founded the [Journal of Parasitology](#), the first publication in the United States that was devoted to the field of Parasitology. He continued to edit the journal until 1932, when he presented it to the American Society of Parasitologists to become the official Journal of the society. The society usually presents each year an award to highly productive individuals in the field of parasitology called the Henry Baldwin Ward Medal not only to honor the recipient, but to also commemorate the beginning of parasitology in the western hemisphere by Ward and students.



Manter continued at the University of Nebraska until his retirement in 1970.

In 1971, the Division of Parasitology was started in the University of Nebraska State Museum under the direction of Professor Mary Lou Pritchard, a former student of Professor Harold W. Manter. Mary Lou remained on staff as curator and professor in the Museum with a joint appointment in Zoology, later the School of Biological Sciences. She trained many outstanding parasitologists during her career. In 1963 she was joined on campus by Professor John Janovy Jr., and Brent B. Nickol; two outstanding parasitologists who had long and extremely productive careers at UNL. The influence of the University of Nebraska on the science of parasitology world-wide cannot be overstated. It was and still is significant.

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