

# **Places, Faces, Networks: Paul Otlet (1864-1944) in Brussels, 1890- 1897**

**By**

**W Boyd Rayward**

**Professor Emeritus, Graduate School of  
Library and Information Science**

**University of Illinois**

# Paul Otlet



# Outline of Otlet's Work 1894-1906

1894 International Office of Bibliography, Société d'ESP (with Henri La Fontaine – HLF))

1895 International Institute & Office of Bibliography – OIB-IIB (with HLF)

Universal Bibliographical Repertory (RBU),

Universal Iconographic Repertory (RIU)

Universal Repertory of Dossiers (RUD)

Universal Decimal Classification. (UDC)

International Conferences 1885, 1897, 1900,

1908, 1910 – mostly annual in period after WWI

*IIB Bulletin* 1895-1911

1906 Collective Library of Learned Societies as part of the OIB.

Experiments with microfilm published

Musée du Livre

# Outline of Otlet's work 1908-1944

- 1907 Musée de la Presse
- 1908 President of the Union de la Presse périodique belge (until 1925)
- 1910 Union of International Associations (with HLF)  
Conferences 1910, 1913  
International Museum  
*Annuaire de la Vie Internationale*, 1909, 1911,  
*La Vie Internationale*, 1912-1914
- 1919 Palais Mondial and later called Mundaneum
- 1934 *Traité de Documentation: le livre sur le livre*
- 1935 *Monde*
- late 1920s/
- 1944 Cité Mondiale  
Encyclopedia Universalis Mundaneum

# **A network of contacts: family and friends**

**Edouard Otlet, 1842-1907**

Industrialist – entrepreneur

Art collector

Senator (Catholic), 1894-1900

**Edmond Picard, 1836-1924**

Avocat

Patron of the arts

Senator (Socialist) 1894-1902(?)

**Paul Heger, 1846-1925**

Director, Institut Solvay de Physiologie,  
1889

# Edmond Picard



# **Société d'Etudes sociales et politiques, 1890-1994**

**August Couvreur, 1824-1894** (Ancien vice-Président, Chambre des Représentants

Secretary general,

**Henri La Fontaine, 1854-1943** (Nobel Peace prize 1913; Avocat, Sec-Gen Fed Société pour Arbitrage et la paix

Secretary.

VP Comité du service bibliographique

**Emile Vandervelde, 1866-1938**, avocat  
membre Comité du service bibliographique

**Paul Hymans, 1865-1941**, Avocat,  
Sec, Section de Législation Comparée  
Sec, reconstituted Société d'ESP, 1895

# Henri La Fontaine, 1853-1943



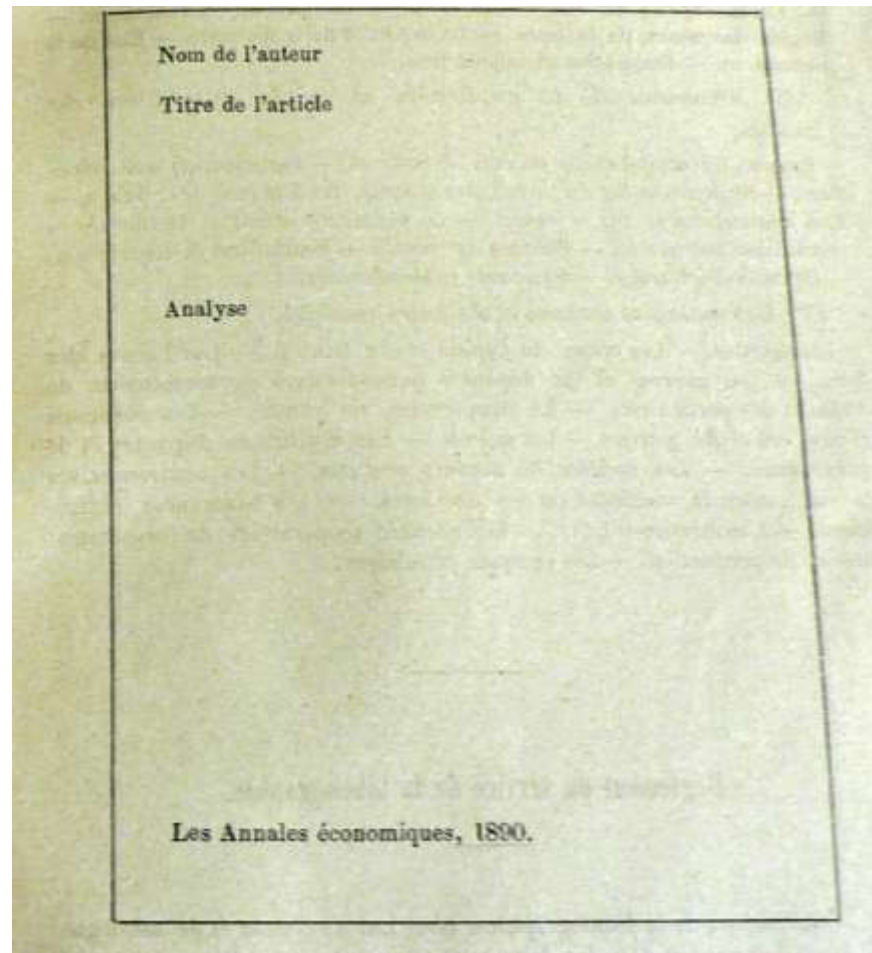
# Bibliographical card, *Revue Sociale et politique*

Nom de l'auteur

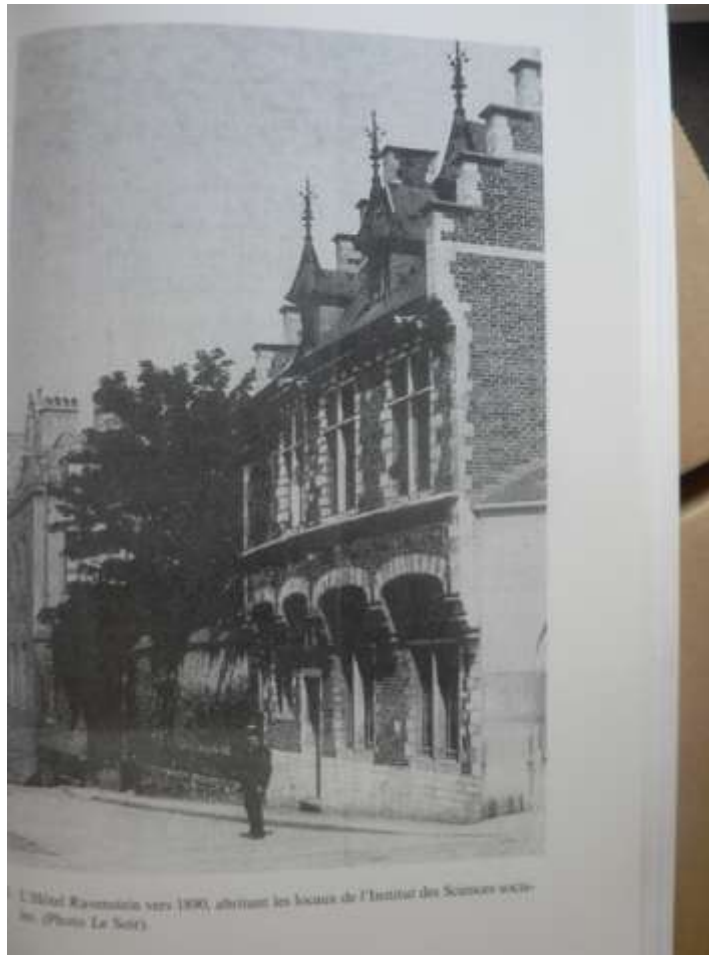
Titre de l'article

Analyse

Les Annales économiques, 1890.

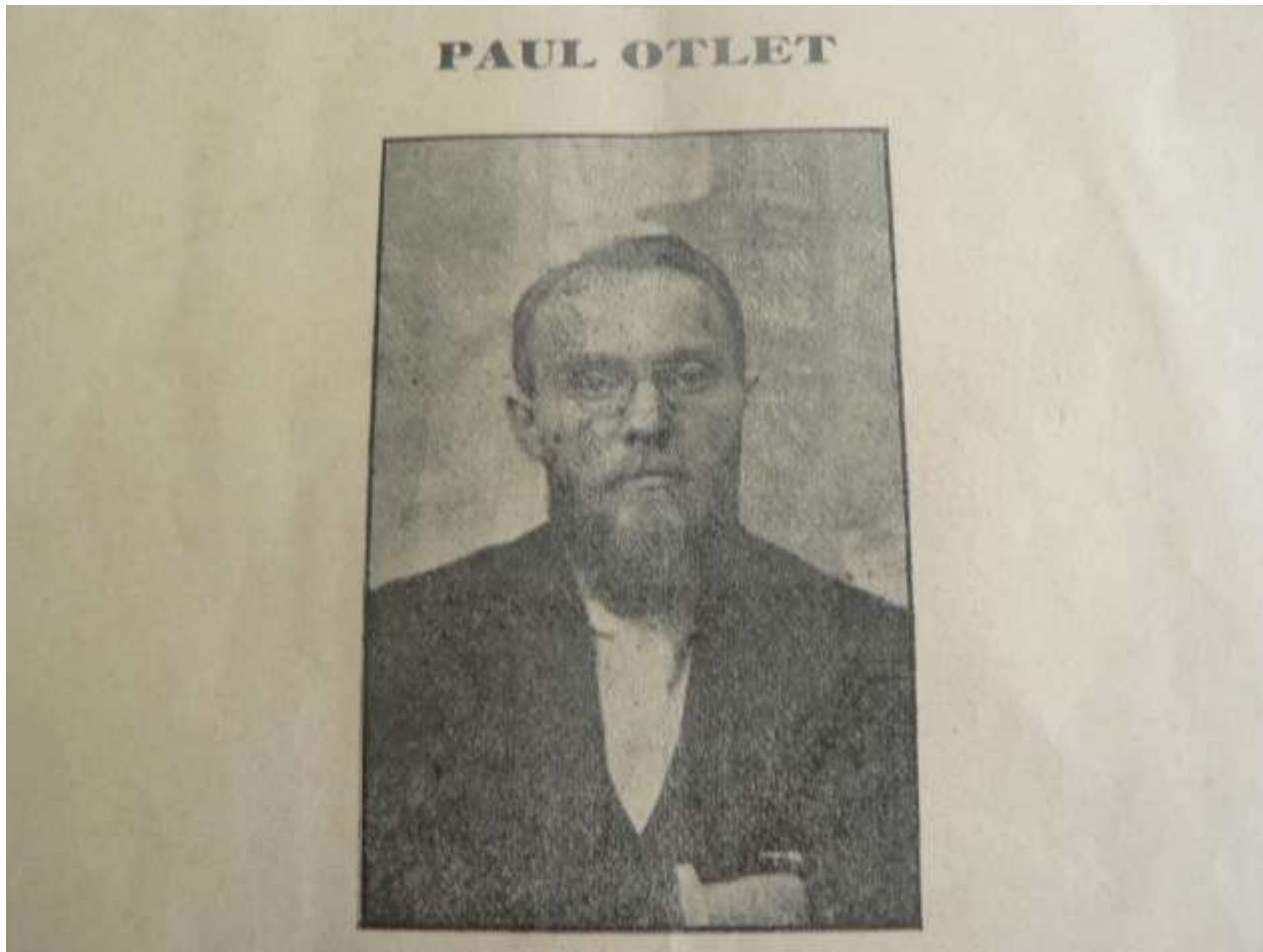
A blank, aged, cream-colored bibliographical card with a thin black border. The card is oriented vertically and contains four distinct sections for text entry. The top section is labeled 'Nom de l'auteur', the second 'Titre de l'article', the third 'Analyse', and the bottom section contains the text 'Les Annales économiques, 1890.'.

# Hôtel Ravenstein, 1890



L'hôtel Ravenstein vers 1890, abritant les locaux de l'Institut des Sciences sociales. (Photo Le Soir)

# Paul Otlet at 30 as a Pressophile Belge



# Paul Otlet (and André Colet)

