Dr. John Peter Senning was born in Rotenburg, Germany, and came to the United States in 1892. He became a naturalized citizen in 1905. Senning attended Westmar College at LeMars, Iowa where he was awarded a bachelor’s degree in 1906. In 1924, he received a doctor’s degree from the University of Illinois. He studied at the University of Chicago during 1909-1910 and became a fellow in the history at Yale during 1914-15. In 1910-11 he was an instructor at Illinois College at Jacksonville, Ill. And from 1912-1914 he taught at the Wesleyan University at Middletown, Connecticut. It was during this time that Senning married Elizabeth Anna Stone who took an active part in Senning’s later activities concerning the Nebraska Unicameral.

It was Senning, who with George W. Norris, drafted the legislation that authorized the establishment of Nebraska’s Unicameral legislature. Dr. Senning came to the University of Nebraska in 1916 as an assistant professor of political science. He was a professor in the department from 1935-1952 when he became professor emeritus. He was head of the political science department, from 1920 to 1923 and again from 1929 to 1939. From 1935 to 1941 he was a member of the Interstate Crime Commission and was a member of the survey committee of the Nebraska Constitutional Convention during 1919-20. Dr. Senning had been a member of the Lincoln Board of Education since 1947 and chairman of the City County Building planning committee since 1948. He served as a member of the regional war Labor Board from 1943-1945.

Senning was a member of the American Political Science Association, the executive council of the APSA from 1927-1931 and director of the state conference of civic education and state and local government in 1931-32. He belonged to the American Society from Public Administration; National Municipal League; Civil Service Assembly; Governmental Research Association; Lincoln Chamber of Commerce; Phi Alpha Delta; Congregational Church; 32nd degree Masons and the University Club. Senning died Saturday, December 4, 1954 in Lincoln, Nebraska. He was survived by his wife Elizabeth.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of 66 boxes of manuscript material arranged in 9 series: (1) Correspondence; (2) Manuscripts; (3) Research notes, maps, and charts; (4) Printed Matter; (5) Newspaper clippings; (6) Minutes and committee reports; (7) Pamphlets; (8) Scrapbooks; (9) Miscellany.

This collection relates to John P. Sennings’ activities as professor and chairman of the
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University of Nebraska Political Science Department, 1929-1952, and to his interest, promotion, and support of a unicameral legislature in Nebraska. Included is material relating to the committee which drafted the constitutional amendment for a unicameral legislature in 1934. The bulk of this collection consists of Manuscripts, Printed Matter, and Research Notes pertaining to the theory and operation of Nebraska’s unicameral government. Material pertains to proposals for unicameral legislatures in other states. Correspondents include: Norris, George, W.

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Box 54  1959
Box 55  1959
Box 56  1960
Box 57  1960-1961
Box 58  1961
Box 59  1961
Box 60  1961-1963

Series 8 - Miscellany

Box 61
Folder

1. Unicameral
2. Missouri Valley Maps
3. Unicameral
4. Enrollment Data and Building Needs
5. Certificates
6. Miscellany

Box 62  Newspaper clippings-5x7 cards with clippings indexed by subject
Box 63  5x7 cards with clippings indexed by subject