Biography:

J S P tells me of a letter he has written to the Missouri man who is getting ready to do a life of Dunne. He wrote him that he is making a research into Dunne's influence on political thinking and writing. J S P told him that if he was going to get anywhere in biography that he must begin with a theme and that must develop from none with knowledge of the man's life. And gave him some good hints about where to go to work to find something about Dunne.

I am coming to believe that the academic practices in these biographical researches is mischievous as a whole. A man that is sent out to find something - these books on muckraking are examples. Get copy of J S P's letter which seemed to be admirable.