

RUSSELL SOCIETY NEWS

No. 19

August 1978

- (1) The 1978 Annual Meeting, at McMaster (2,49,50). Neilands at Nobel Symposium (12). BR as sociologist (15,47). Herbert Stahl's tribulations (45). Paul Edwards accepts (28). Time to vote (39,52a). Index (51). An asterisk in the left column indicates a request.

1978 ANNUAL MEETING

- (2) The Annual Meeting, at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, May 19-21, 1978, proved to be highly satisfying. To tell it quickly: we discussed BRS business, saw 4 BR movies, heard 5 papers on BR, had a banquet, heard a symphony, and enjoyed the occasion generally. And, if you will forgive a bit of self-praise, we will quote from a letter HERB VOGT wrote later, after he had attended his first BRS meeting, at McMaster: "The best part was to learn how nice everyone was."
- The physical facilities were splendid. We had a large private auditorium (with movie projection booth, complete with operator), and a private dining room, all in the pleasant surroundings of the attractive Mc^Master campus.
- (2a) Two sets of minutes are part of this issue:(a) minutes of the meeting of Members (50), and (b) minutes of the meeting of Directors (49). They tell the story of what happened. We suggest you read them at this point, since the following are details that supplement the minutes:
- . Dr. William Ready, University Librarian, was the moving force behind the acquisition of the Russell Archives by McMaster. He persuaded the Canada Council to provide \$110,000, and Cyrus Eaton \$25,000, toward the original purchase of the Archives.
 - . For Joy Corbett's recollections of Beacon Hill School, see N113-23. She is now Joy Corbett Ray.
 - . In mid-afternoon Saturday, the meeting moved from our auditorium to the Russell Archives. Here we looked at the enormous collection of books and articles by and about BR, listened to tapes, and saw the Archives' most recent important acquisition: BR's own library, desk, and chair. Then followed the Red Hackle Hour, with genuine Red Hackle (unlike last year, when we were offered a mere substitute.)
 - . Saturday evening's banquet — quite a good one — was followed by a playing of Graham Whettam's Symphony Against Fear (N115-14,46). The tape that was played was a copy made by WARREN SMITH from a tape that East German Radio had been kind enough to provide. The original East German tape is being preserved for some possible future use.
 - . An interesting detail in GLADYS LEITHAUSER's paper on BR's interest in the Faustian theme is the name BR chose for the leading character in his early try at fiction, "The Perplexities of John Forstice." Forstice sounds remarkably similar to Faustus.
 - . The BRS Library is acquiring copies (or abstracts) of the papers presented at the Meeting, which may, of course, be borrowed.
- (2b) Officers were elected at the Directors' Meeting (49g) for one-year terms starting 1/1/79, as follows: Chairman, Peter Cranford; President, Robert Davis; Vice-President, Warren Allen Smith; Treasurer, Stephen J. Reinhardt; Secretary, Donald W. Jackanicz.
- (2c) 21 BRS members attended — approximately 10% of the membership, and about the same number as last year: DONG-IN BAE, KEN BLACKWELL, PETER CRANFORD, JIM CURTIS, BOB DAVIS, LESTER DENONN, LEE EISLER, MARTIN GARSTENS, MC KENZIE GOODRICH, ED HOPKINS, DON JACKANICZ, GLADYS LEITHAUSER, DAN MC DONALD, IBRAHIM NAJJAR*, JACK PITT, RAYMOND PLANT, STEVE REINHARDT, HARRY RUJA, WARREN SMITH, CARL SPADONI*, HERB VOGT. (*became members at the Meeting.)
- An equal number of non-members, some of them McMaster students or staff members, attended one or more events (two attended only the banquet): Catherine Beattie, Kandriin Blackwell, Andrew Brink, Grant Corbett, Earl Darlington, Bess Deponn, Jessie Edwards, Helen Garstens, Louis Greenspan, Nicholas Griffin, Barbara Hardt, David Harley, Joseph Harley, Mrs. J. P. Harley, Lourdes Harley, Diane Keress, Duncan Martin, Margaret Martin, Joy Corbett Ray, Mr. and Mrs. George Willie.
- (2d) A final thought about attendance: Dong-In Bae travelled all the way from West Germany to Hamilton to be with us. We hope more of you will be with us next year. We feel sure that cost is what keeps attendance down. How about starting now to put aside a few dollars a week — Christmas Club fashion — so you can come to the next Meeting?

NEXT ANNUAL MEETING (1979)

- (3) Where and when shall we meet in 1979? At the 1978 Meeting, the time and place of the 1979 Meeting was discussed. The general feeling seemed to be that it should be in the East, and that the members should vote on the precise location, and on the time.
- The following cities were mentioned, and are now candidates for 1979: Boston, Chicago, Hamilton (McMaster), New York, Philadelphia, Washington. Some thought we should not go to Chicago if ERA has not been passed.

1978 ANNUAL MEETING (CONTINUED)

Minutes of the 1978 Annual Meeting of Directors
of
The Bertrand Russell Society, Inc.

The Board of Directors of the Bertrand Russell Society, Inc. met in two separate sessions on Friday, May 19 and Saturday, May 20, 1978 in Room 1A1 of the Health Sciences Centre of McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

Friday, May 19

The President of the Board, Peter Cranford, called the first session to order at 10:07 p.m. The following twelve Board members were present: Peter Cranford, Ken Blackwell, Bob Davis, Lester E. Denonn, Lee Eisler, Ed Hopkins, Martin Garstens, Don Jackanicz, Dan McDonald, Jack Pitt, Steve Reinhardt, and Warren Smith. Members not present were Joe Neillands, Gary Slezak, and Katharine Tait.

After Peter's opening remarks which included a warning that BRS finances are weak, Steve Reinhardt presented the Treasurer's report. Members were referred to Russell Society News for periodic detailed accounts of income and expenditures. Steve concentrated on suggesting methods by which income could be increased and by which present income could be used more economically. He (a) recommended that independent audits of Treasury operations be regularly made.

(b) Lee Eisler gave reports for the Information and Membership Committees. Noting that the BRS had 184 members, he explained that a minimum of 200 members are required for eligibility for non-profit organization postal rates. Lee elaborated on advertising practices and cited statistics indicating inquiry and membership trends.

(c) In general discussion the question of whether dues should be increased was studied. Topics touched upon included how more funding could be obtained and how increased membership and renewals could be encouraged. A proposal to establish a new Finance Committee was inconclusively discussed. The session was adjourned at 11:50 p.m.

Saturday, May 20

Peter Cranford called the second session to order at 5:00 p.m. The following ten Board members were present: Peter Cranford, Bob Davis, Lester E. Denonn, Lee Eisler, Ed Hopkins, Don Jackanicz, Dan McDonald, Jack Pitt, Steve

Reinhardt, and Warren Smith. Members not present were Ken Blackwell, Martin Garstens, Joe Neillands, Gary Slezak, and Katharine Tait.

(d) The report of the Scholarship Awards Committee was given by Jack Pitt. He distributed a sheet (49j) listing seven motions pertaining to the Travelling Fellowship Program. These seven motions were formally placed before the Board by Lee Eisler, seconded by Bob Davis, and unanimously accepted.

(e) Warren Smith next reported on the Audio-Visual and Administration Committee. He supplied general information on Graham Whettam's Sinfonia Contra Timore and explored the means by which the BRS could produce a recording of it. Discussion ensued on the financing and distribution of such a recording. Two opposing views were aired: (1) that this composition is a meaningful musical tribute to Russell; that the work in itself has artistic merit and should be made available to a larger public; that publicity for the BRS could be engendered through a successful recording; that a potentially substantial profit might be realized from the sale of such recordings; and (2) that the BRS should not become involved in new and complex undertakings when existing ones have yet to be consolidated; that the BRS would be furthering the career of a composer of whom little is known; that the distribution of recordings is problematic and can result in losses as well as profits. It was finally moved by Bob Davis, seconded by Lester E. Denonn, and unanimously accepted that Warren is to investigate further the possibility of the BRS producing a recording of the Whettam composition and that recognition be accorded to Warren's voluntarily made offer that he be responsible for any financial loss which may result from a BRS-sponsored Whettam recording. It was moved by Bob Davis, seconded by Jack Pitt, and unanimously accepted that the Audio-Visual and Administration Committee shall investigate the possibility of the BRS rereleasing out-of-print recordings of Russell.

(f) Lee Eisler reopened the previous evening's discussion of increasing dues. This topic led to consideration of the work of the Finance Committee chaired by Peter Cranford. It was moved by Jack Pitt, seconded by Lee Eisler, and unanimously accepted that Warren Smith and Bob Davis shall be Co-Chairpersons of a new Committee responsible for fund-raising. It was moved by Jack Pitt, seconded by Bob Davis, and unanimously accepted that any proposed changes in dues shall first be discussed at length by the new Committee responsible for fund-raising and that this Committee shall present a report on dues reform to the Board by August 31, 1978.

(g) The next order of business was the nomination and election of officers. Each of the following officers-elect was unanimously elected:

- Chairman of the Board of Directors-----Peter Cranford
(Nominated by Lee Eisler, seconded by Jack Pitt)
- Secretary of the Board of Directors----Don Jackanicz
(Lee Eisler, Jack Pitt)
- President-----Bob Davis
(Don Jackanicz, Lee Eisler)

-- Vice President-----Warren Smith
 (Lee Eisler, Bob Davis)
 -- Treasurer-----Steve Reinhardt
 (Bob Davis, Warren Smith)
 -- Secretary-----Don Jackanicz
 (Bob Davis, Warren Smith)

The Travelling Fellowship Program:
7 Proposals by Jack Pitt

(h) It was moved by Bob Davis, seconded by Ed Hopkins, and unanimously accepted that a Parliamentary and Elections Committee be formed with Lee Eisler as Chairperson. Lee appointed Warren Smith to assist in this Committee's work. It was then moved by Lee Eisler, seconded by Bob Davis, and unanimously accepted that terms of officers-elect shall begin on January 1 of the year following their election.

It was informally agreed that Don Jackanicz, the Secretary-elect, would assist Jack Pitt, the incumbent Secretary, in preparing minutes of the 1978 Board of Directors and general meetings. Also, it was informally agreed (i) that Jack Pitt and Ed Hopkins will work with Bob Davis to locate a new Chairperson for the Applied Philosophy Committee. Problems of financing were again discussed. The question was posed which officers have the power to sign BRS checks; no conclusive answer was agreed upon. Steve Reinhardt announced that he would be on vacation for seven weeks beginning about July 4 and therefore unable to act in his capacity as Treasurer. Board members were advised to make any necessary arrangements with Steve before that date. The final topic of discussion concerned the site and date of the 1979 meeting. It was decided to postpone a decision with the expectation that the general membership will make its preferences known within sufficient time for planning purposes. The meeting concluded at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald W. Jackanicz
 Donald W. Jackanicz

August 1, 1978

(j) I think the useful question to ask is how shall the Travelling Fellowship Program (TFP) swing into operation (rather than why it has not done so). You should have the prior documents pertinent to the Program which I have duplicated and distributed to remind us of the point we had reached last year. I shall now advance some proposals aimed at establishing the Program as a reality in the coming year.

Motion 1 That the Chair of the TFP assume the responsibilities and duties of the Grant Committees. (This person may enlist the help of other interested members, would continue to report annually to the Board, and would keep the President up to date regarding actions taken. In particular, no funds exceeding fifty dollars would be spent without prior authorization of the President.)

Motion 2 That the Chair of TFP be required to assemble a Fellowship Selection Committee of at least three scholars of national/international reputation to judge Fellowship applications. The Chair would function as an ex officio member of this Committee.

Motion 3 That the chair of the TFP be authorized to execute the fund-raising plans.

Motion 4 That the previously adopted motion of setting aside \$1.50 of each member's annual dues to go towards the TFP be implemented beginning July 1st 1978.

Motion 5 (a) that funds earmarked for the TFP not be spent in any other way, and (b) that such funds already so spent be replaced within the current fiscal year from non-TFP sources.

Motion 6 That efforts continue to effect a compossible relation with McMaster University as stated in Motion 6 on this topic at the previous meeting.

Motion 7 That efforts be made to establish similarly compossible relations with Universities which either house Russell material of interest or have on their faculties persons with recognized and exceptional knowledge of some aspect of Russell's work or of his historical period.

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These proposals were accepted at the Meeting of Directors.

1978 ANNUAL MEETING (CONTINUED)

Minutes of the 1978 Annual Meeting of Members
of
The Bertrand Russell Society, Inc.

The fifth annual business meeting of the Bertrand Russell Society, Inc. was held Friday, May 19 through Sunday, May 21, 1978 at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

Friday, May 19

The first session was called to order in Room 1A1 of the Health Sciences Centre at 7:30 p.m. by Ken Blackwell, Russell Archivist. He introduced Peter Cranford, Chairman of the BRS Board of Directors, Dean A. Berland, Chairman of the Russell Archives Advisory Board, and Dr. William Ready, University Librarian. Dean Berland welcomed the BRS on behalf of McMaster University. Entitling his talk "A Challenge to the BRS", Dr. Ready examined the development of the Russell Archives; he also explained that the papers of Sidney Hook were now available for \$750 and in effect challenged the BRS to raise funds toward their purchase. A film, The Life and Times of Bertrand Russell, was then presented. With President Bob Davis now chairing the session, the remainder of the evening was devoted to a general discussion of Russell's personal qualities and concerns and how they are related to the aims and work of the BRS. The session was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Saturday, May 20

Since a sizeable number of members were present at an 8:00 a.m. breakfast in the Green Room of the Health Sciences Centre, it was decided to begin the second session at that time and place. Chairman Peter Cranford presided and (a) was the first speaker. He concentrated on the problems of BRS financing, stating (b) that there is a deficit. Lee Eisler, the Chairperson of the Information and Membership Committees, next presented statistics on member recruiting, enrollments, and renewals. (About one member out of two renews membership.) He reported on results of magazine advertising: Atlantic Monthly and Saturday Review will be dropped; Atlas, Harper's, Mensa, The Nation, and The New Republic will be retained. He stated his appreciation of the fine work that Beverly Smith has been doing as Co-Chairperson of the Membership Committee: during the past year she has answered 400 inquiries and enrolled seventy-three new members, all of which represents a contribution to the BRS of many, many hours of work and reflects a strong desire to help the BRS function effectively. Next, Harry Ruja proposed to offer an honorary presidency or membership to a celebrated person such as an eminent philosopher.

- (c) Discussion briefly returned to matters of financing as Peter Cranford recommended considering a reduction of activities, for example by decreasing the size of Russell Society News, as an alternative to increasing expenses and, by implication, increasing dues and developing other income sources. A report on (d) the BRS Library was given by Don Jackanicz. He reviewed the work of the lending library and the sales program; requested \$280 in Treasury funds to purchase two Russell films whose price has continued to increase; told of discovering a film of Russell on Meet the Press; congratulated Peter Cranford whose paper, "The Relevance of Bertrand Russell to Psychology", has been well received by professionals learning of it through advertisements in the American Psychological Association Monitor; expressed the hope that similar brief papers will be written for professionals in other fields as an introduction to Russell; and supported proposals to produce records or tapes of out-of-print Russell records and the Graham Whettam symphony dedicated to Russell.

At 9:15 a.m. members reassembled in Room 1A1 with Bob Davis presiding. A short film, Bertrand Russell Discusses Happiness, was shown. The following were matters discussed or proposals made and/or acted upon:

- Lee Eisler suggested that annual meetings be held during the first six months of a year to avoid the possibility that meetings might become spaced too close to one another.
- Members voiced their preferences concerning the site and date of the 1979 meeting. Cities proposed included Hamilton, New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, San Francisco, and Austin. Some members expressed opposition to meeting in states whose legislatures have not passed the Equal Rights Amendment. Members will vote on the 1979 meeting site and date via a mail ballot.
- Bob Davis mentioned the possibility of organizing a charter tour of Britain in which places associated with Russell would be visited.
- Ken Blackwell proposed approaching the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation through Christopher Farley to learn details of Russell's Plas Penrhyn house which has been put up for sale following Edith Russell's death. Bob Davis and Don Jackanicz are to investigate this.
- The problems of the Awards Committee were reviewed, especially the fact that nothing of substance had been accomplished by this Committee. Gladys Leithauser proposed a BRS book award, a suggestion receiving general approval; Nick Griffin proposed a BRS Award for Folly which many thought could attract media attention. However, no decisions were reached.
- It was moved by Martin Garstens, seconded by Peter Cranford, and unanimously accepted to offer Dora Russell honorary membership.
- It was moved by Lee Eisler, seconded by Harry Ruja, and unanimously accepted to increase the membership of the Board of Directors to a minimum of six and a maximum of twenty-four persons. (The previous numbers were three and fifteen.)

This is Item (50) continued

A series of individual presentations followed. Having traveled from West Germany to attend the meeting, Dong-In Bae spoke about the Korean Bertrand Russell Society of which he was the founder. He elaborated on his hope that the BRS will take stands on political issues. Carl Spadoni then gave his paper, "Philosophy in Russell's Letters to Alys Pearsall Smith", which charted Russell's place in turn-of-the-century Cambridge Neo-Hegelianism. David B. Harley presented his study, "Beacon Hill School", which examined the background of Bertrand and Dora Russell's educational experiment. It was shown that Russell's own educational experiences--many of them negative--and, moreover, tragic contemporary events--especially World War I with its popular support--were decisive factors leading to the School's founding and character. Next, Bob Davis read excerpts from the final chapter of Dora Russell's recently completed book on education. Having attended Beacon Hill School for ten years beginning at the age of two, Joy Corbett responded to a variety of questions from members. Following a break for lunch, another film, Bertrand Russell Discusses the Role of the Individual, was shown. Lester E. Demonn then presented "Some Adjectives, Adverbs, and Descriptive Phrases Which I Found in My Roamings Applied to Bertrand Russell". This talk included diverse biographical and bibliographical material. The session was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 21

The third and final session was called to order by Bob Davis at 10:00 a.m. in Room 1A1. A film, Bertrand Russell, was presented. Harry Ruja then spoke on "Bertrand Russell and the Jews". Citing various letters and published writings, he rebutted recent allegations of Russell's anti-Semitism made by Sidney Hook. However, it was claimed that Russell based his 1970 condemnation of Israel on inadequate evidence. The final individual presentation was that of Gladys Leithauser who gave her paper, "A Non-Supernatural Faust: Bertrand Russell and the Themes of Faust". After a review of the Faust legend's evolution, she examined the relevance of Faustian imagery in works such as A Free Man's Worship and "The Perplexities of John Forstice". Joy Corbett returned briefly to address further questions concerning her Beacon Hill School days. The session concluded at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald W. Jackanicz

Donald W. Jackanicz

August 1, 1978

LAST MINUTE NEWS

(51) A. J. Ayer. We have just received word -- and a welcome word it is -- that Sir Alfred Ayer has accepted an invitation to become an honorary member. He qualifies for honorary membership under Article II, Section 2 (III).

He has admired, and been influenced by, BR's views, for some 50 years (RSN18-11), and has written many philosophical volumes, including Language, Truth and Logic (1936), The Problem of Knowledge (1956). Russell and Moore: The Analytical Heritage (1971), The Central Questions of Philosophy (1973). He is Professor of Logic at Oxford, and a Fellow of the British Academy. For much more about him, see The Encyclopedia of Philosophy, London: Macmillan, 1967.

The BRS Bylaws require "approval by two-thirds of the members voting." Please use the Ballot, Part 4, last page.

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