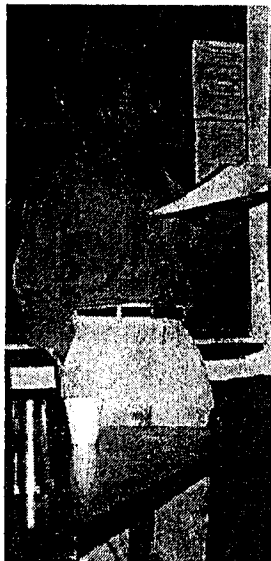


The 2001 Annual Meeting of the Bertrand Russell Society



The modern conference resembles the pilgrimage of medieval Christendom in that it allows the participants to indulge themselves in all the pleasures and diversions of travel while appearing to be austere bent on self-improvement. To be sure, there are certain penitential exercises to be performed - the presentations of a paper, perhaps, and certainly listening to the papers of others. But with this excuse you journey to new and interesting places, meet new and interesting people, and form new and interesting relations with them; exchange gossip and confidences (for your well-worn stories are fresh to them, and vice versa); eat, drink and make merry in their company every evening; and yet, at the end of it all, return home with an enhanced reputation for seriousness of mind.

David Lodge, *Small World* (1984)

Quote of the Meeting

"To be surrounded by philosophers is unsettling."

-Warren Allen Smith



Minutes of the 2001 BRS Annual Meeting

Peter Stone
Secretary, BRS

The Bertrand Russell Society held its annual meeting on May 25-7, 2001 at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, home of the Bertrand Russell Archives and the newly created Bertrand Russell Research Centre. Alan Schwerin presided. Peter Stone took notes. BRS members present were Stefan Andersson, Steve Bayne, Ken Blackwell, Howard Blair, David Blitz, Alan Bock, Pat Bock, Edgar C. Boedeker, Jr., Kevin Brodie, Rosalind Carey, Giovanni de Carvalho, Peter Friedman, Nick Griffin, David Henehan, Tim Madigan, Mary Martin, Ed McClenathan, Ray Perkins, Ray Plant, Michael Potter, Steve Reinhardt, Cara Rice, Alan Schwerin, Warren Allen Smith, Peter Stone, Chad Trainer, Giovanni Vianelli, Thom Weidlich, David Wesley, David White, Avon Wilsmore, and Barrie Zwicker. Non-members present were Andrew Bailey, Matthew Barber, Renu Barrett, Elizabeth Blackwell, Andrew Bone, Adam Dobai, Arlene Duncan, Louis Greenspan, Afeah Henderson, Dan Kervick, Peter Loptson, Kent MacAskill, Nancy McClenathan, Karen Perkins, Jane Robin, Carl Spadoni, Stephen Toulmin, Sheila Turcon, Samuel Wesley, Cory Wendorf, and Linda White. This turnout was the highest ever at a BRS meeting held at McMaster, of which there have been 5 since 1978.

The meeting began with tours of the Russell Archives and coffee at the Bertrand Russell Research Centre, at which various unpublished CD-ROMs of Russell were available for examination. A book swap was also held at which members could exchange Russell-related materials. The Russell Archives also offered various books for sale at the book swap.

On Friday night, President Alan Schwerin greeted everyone present at a welcoming buffet. At the buffet, Schwerin presented the 2001 BRS Paper Award to Giovanni Vianelli for his paper "The Centenary of the Paradox: Pythagoras and Some Recently Discovered Manuscript Pages by Russell." Vianelli accepted the award in person. After this, BRS Awards Committee Chair Peter Stone presented the 2001 BRS Award to Stephen Toulmin, Henry R. Luce Professor at the Center for Multiethnic and Transnational Studies at the University of Southern California. Toulmin also accepted the award in person, and gave a brief history of his personal encounters with Russell. Ray Perkins then presented the 2001 BRS Book Award to Thom Weidlich (a freelance journalist) for his book *Appointment Denied: the Inquisition of Bertrand Russell* (Prometheus Books, 2000). Weidlich was also there to accept the award in person, and

expressed his appreciation to the BRS. Toulmin concluded the evening for the Society with an address entitled "Rationality and Reasonableness in Twentieth-Century Philosophy." The address was based on Toulmin's recently published book, *Return to Reason* (Harvard University Press, 2001).

After the conclusion of the evening, the Board of Directors held its annual meeting (see Minutes of the 2001 Annual Meeting of the BRS Board of Directors).

Nick Griffin led off the program Saturday morning with "What Was Russell Trying to Do in *Principia Mathematica*?" an introductory talk aimed at non-philosophers. Alan Schwerin chaired this session. Andy Bone chaired the second session, in which Giovanni Vianelli presented the paper which received the 2001 BRS Paper Award, "The Centenary of the Paradox: Pythagoras and Some Recently Discovered Manuscript Pages by Russell." Steve Bayne then concluded the Saturday morning session with a paper entitled "Toulmin and the Discovery of History." Ken Blackwell chaired this session, and Stephen Toulmin took the opportunity to respond to Bayne's remarks.

The members of the BRS then had the opportunity to avail themselves of numerous opportunities. These opportunities included a tour of the Bertrand Russell Archives, where other CD-ROMs were available; another session of the book swap and book sale by the Russell Archives; a continuous showing of two videos on Russell (this continued throughout the entire meeting); a trip to the McMaster Bookstore featuring numerous books by and about Russell; and lunch.

After lunch, the BRS held its 2001 Business Meeting. Alan Schwerin welcomed all BRS members to the business meeting, and congratulated the three newly elected officers of the Society and Board—Ray Perkins (Vice President), Steve Bayne (Secretary of the Society and Board), and Peter Friedman (Vice President for Outreach). He also congratulated the reelected officers—Dennis Darland (Treasurer) and Ken Blackwell (Chairman of the Board).

Ken Blackwell proposed a change in the Bylaws. He noted that there has been some confusion as to the number of officers of the Society and Board. He therefore proposed revising as follows the sentence at the start of Article 7, Section 1 of the Bylaws:

"The Society shall have the following five officers: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Chairman of the Board."

This motion, Blackwell, observed, would explicitly recognize that special Vice Presidents (which the Board could create) were not officers. Thom Weidlich seconded the motion. Alan Schwerin found the idea of having officeholders (like special Vice Presidents) who were not "officers" rather odd. Dave Henehan asked for clarification as to the purpose of the motion. Blackwell explained that the goal would be to clarify who would be consulted during the day-to-day operations of the BRS. Peter Friedman suggested that a distinction between executive and non-executive officers might be a better way of drawing this distinction.

David Blitz saw good reason in having 5 officers to consult. An inquiry was made if the laws of Illinois had any ramifications for this proposed change, and further asked if the motion would have any bearing on the BRS's ability to sign checks and contracts. Alan Schwerin answered that three people currently had the power to sign checks for the BRS—himself (President), Peter Stone (outgoing Secretary), and Dennis Darland (Treasurer).

Alan Schwerin proposed substituting for the proposed amendment the creation of an Executive Committee. The amended version of the amendment would substitute the following for the second sentence:

"The Society shall have an Executive Committee composed of the following five officers of the Society and Board: President, Vice President, Secretary of the Society and Board, Treasurer, and Chairman of the Board. There may also be other Vice Presidents whose duties shall be specified by the Board; these will not be members of the Executive Committee."

Ken Blackwell accepted this amendment, noting that the Executive Committee would (quite properly) leave the President in charge of most executive decision-making. The motion carried 20-0, with two abstentions.

The Society then considered a motion by Peter Stone to expel John Boland from the BRS, an act deemed "appropriate" by the Board (as Alan Schwerin pointed out) by an overwhelming majority. Peter Stone laid out his case for expulsion, a case based on Boland's continued abuse of the BRS's e-mail listserv, BRS-List, as well as his repeated refusal to remove BRS members' personal e-mail addresses from his own

distribution list. Steve Bayne provided a defense of Boland, as requested by Schwerin.

Alan Schwerin inquired if any member had ever been expelled before. Ken Blackwell answered that only one expulsion has ever occurred (that of John Sutcliffe), and it took place in 1981. Thom Weidlich requested that the Bylaw governing expulsion (Article 5, Section 9 of the BRS Bylaws) be read; Ken Blackwell did so. Blackwell further explained that the Bylaws required expulsion decisions to be resolved at the BRS Business Meeting if the Board deemed an expulsion "appropriate" within two months of the scheduled Business Meeting. Otherwise, the matter would have been resolved by mail. He added Boland was informed of this procedure several weeks in advance of the Annual Meeting, but Boland decided not to attend.

The Society then debated the merits of the proposal, including alternatives to expulsion and the precedents set by this particular expulsion. After extensive discussion, the Society approved the motion by a vote of 23-7, with 4 abstentions. In addition to the members present, the following members voted by proxy: Derek Araujo, Javier Bonet, Gordon Diss, Don Jackanicz, Taslima Nasrin, Bob Riemenschneider, David Rodier, Ibn Warraq, Charles Weyand, and Gerry Wildenberg. Schwerin and Blackwell indicated they would write to Boland informing him of his expulsion, and would direct the Treasurer to refund Boland's membership renewal and donation for the year 2001.

The BRS then moved on to other business. Alan Schwerin called for treasury and membership reports. Ken Blackwell directed the BRS to Dennis Darland's last treasury report (published in the May 2001 issue of the *Bertrand Russell Society Quarterly*) and indicated that the Society had received 116 renewals thus far this year. Schwerin urged everyone to either join the BRS or renew their membership as appropriate. Warren Allen Smith moved to approve these reports, Kevin Brodie seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Business Meeting concluded with a pair of announcements. Peter Stone announced that he had taken over as editor of the *Bertrand Russell Society Quarterly*, and urged members to send materials for publication to the Greater Rochester Russell Set (GRRS), which will now collectively produce the publication. And Ray Perkins invited all members to brainstorm for possible sites for the 2002 Annual Meeting. Ken Blackwell added that members should propose their own cities as possible sites, not the cities of other people. Phoenix, Arizona and Lake

Forest, Illinois were suggested in the manner Blackwell advised, and Schwerin will consider these proposals.

Saturday afternoon began with David Blitz's paper "Did Russell Really Advocate Preventive War against the USSR?" in a session chaired by Rosalind Carey. Before the start of the next session, it was announced that Routledge had made available exam copies of some of its Russell-related books. These books were available to meeting participants at a 20% discount. Peter Stone chaired the session that followed, which featured Andy Bone's "Russell and the Communist-Aligned Peace Movement in the 1950s." Kevin Brodie then presented "Russell, Gardner and Home Room: Philosophy Class in High School." David Blitz chaired this session. The afternoon concluded with a panel discussion of Ray Monk's *Bertrand Russell: The Ghost of Madness* chaired by Alan Schwerin. Panel participants included Tim Madigan, Peter Stone, Warren Allen Smith, and Peter Friedman. After a brief recess, the BRS held its Red Hackle Hour and banquet. Nick Griffin capped off the evening with his talk "How the Russell Papers Came to McMaster."

Sunday morning began with Chad Trainer's "Bertrand Russell: A Carneades Incarnate," presented in a session chaired by David White. Ray Perkins chaired the following session, which featured a paper by Rosalind Carey entitled "Why Did Russell Accept Neutral Monism?" Alan Schwerin then spoke on "Metaphysics, Mysticism and Russell." Stefan Andersson chaired this session. Thom Weidlich chaired the final session, in which David White capped off the paper sessions with his "Russell, Smith, and the Religion of the Future."

Ken Blackwell then reiterated the call for meeting attendees to join the BRS if they had not done so already. He also urged them to nominate candidates for the forthcoming Board elections. Blackwell then announced that the BRS had enough Red Hackle left from its Saturday Red Hackle Hour to provide for a future meeting at McMaster, and that he had already e-mailed John Boland about his expulsion (and received no less than six e-mails in response) and removed him from BRS-List. Alan Schwerin and the Society then thanked Blackwell appreciatively for his work in organizing the meeting. Blackwell then asked that the BRS thank Arlene Duncan and Alison Miculan for their work on the meeting, and the Society did so. A brief Special Board Meeting then took place to wrap up a few loose ends (see the Minutes of the First 2001 Special Meeting of the BRS Board of Directors). The meeting attendees then enjoyed a delicious barbecue before departing.

Minutes of the 2001 Annual Meeting of the BRS Board of Directors

Peter Stone
Secretary, BRS Board of Directors

The BRS Board of Directors held its annual meeting on Friday, May 25, 2001, in conjunction with the BRS Annual Meeting at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario. Ken Blackwell chaired. Peter Stone took notes. Directors present were Steve Bayne, Ken Blackwell, Kevin Brodie, Nick Griffin, Tim Madigan, Ray Perkins, Steve Reinhardt, Alan Schwerin, Warren Allen Smith, Peter Stone, Thom Weidlich, and David White. A number of other BRS members, including Peter Friedman, also attended the meeting.

Ray Perkins moved to waive a reading of the minutes from the last Board meeting and to approve the minutes. Alan Schwerin seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Ken Blackwell then decided to postpone election of officers until the end of the meeting, and brought up the issue of expenditures. The Bertrand Russell Archives had recently bid for a manuscript—a draft of Russell's essay "Mysticism and Logic"—in an internet auction. Before the auction, Blackwell had in his capacity as Honorary Russell Archivist decided at the 11th hour to ask the BRS to put up \$1000 towards the Archives bid. President Alan Schwerin, Vice President Tim Madigan, Secretary Peter Stone, and Treasurer Dennis Darland all approved of Blackwell's request, and so the Archives proceeded to the auction with a pledge from the BRS in hand. The bid failed; the winning bid was for \$17,000, and as auction-watchers within the BRS predicted, the manuscript was immediately thereafter available for bids at a higher asking price (\$45,000). The BRS's pledge did not affect the outcome; there were two bids considerably higher than any amount the Archives could have raised.

Ken Blackwell asked the Board for guidance on the question of future large potential purchases such as these. Was the Board, he asked, content to allow the officers to agree to make decisions on purchases of this size? Peter Stone pointed out that technically, the buck had to stop somewhere, and that there was no provision for the officers of the Society and Board to make decisions of any kind collectively (by majority vote, for example). Alan Schwerin was wary of setting bad precedent via bids of this kind, and supported Blackwell's call for guidance on this matter.

Nick Griffin observed that the Board could respond to this request in numerous ways. Perhaps the solution, as Ken Blackwell proposed, lay in entrusting the decision to a majority vote among the officers after all. Thom Weidlich proposed that the limit on such large purchases be \$1000. Ken Blackwell, however, did not want a limit. Steve Reinhardt observed that such limits usually apply to officers at subordinate levels in corporations, although not at the top. Peter Stone observed that the issue of a limit was only half the matter; the other half was the question of the person or group empowered to make such spending decisions, with or without a limit.

Nick Griffin moved that the Board restrict the power of the Society's officers to make spending decisions of this sort to \$1000 or 10% of the Society's cash in hand, whichever was greater. Ken Blackwell ruled that this constituted a proposed amendment to the Bylaws of the BRS, and so was out of order for a Board vote. Peter Stone, however, questioned why this would qualify as a Bylaw amendment; surely, he observed, the Board could direct the BRS's officers on questions of policy without constantly changing the Bylaws. Blackwell then reversed himself, and permitted the motion. Steve Bayne seconded the motion.

Steve Reinhardt revisited the question of whose actions would be restricted by the amendment. Was it to be a majority of officers thus restricted, and if so, for which spending decisions? All of them? Peter Stone asked for clarification on the question of who could at present sign checks on behalf of the BRS. Alan Schwerin indicated that at present, three people had that power—Alan Schwerin (President), Peter Stone (Secretary), and Dennis Darland (Treasurer). Of the three, however, only Darland is currently in possession of any blank checks.

Alan Schwerin observed that ultimately, there was no foolproof solution to this matter, that at some point the Board had to trust someone to make judgment calls on questions like this. Nick Griffin decided in response to withdraw his motion. Thom Weidlich moved that the Board express its approval of the current informal arrangements (informal consultation among the officers) for handling purchasing decisions of this sort. Tim Madigan seconded the motion, and the motion carried 11-1.

Ken Blackwell then announced that the Board's vote indicating that expulsion of John Boland from the BRS might be appropriate had carried. The final vote total, according to Alan Schwerin (who counted the ballots to so as to make the process as fair as possible), was 18-2. As President, Schwerin will preside over the expulsion motion at the Society

Business meeting on Saturday, May 26. Peter Stone, as the Society member making the expulsion motion, will present his case for expulsion. Steve Bayne will then (at the request of Schwerin), offer a defense of Boland (who will not be present at the meeting), and then, following a discussion the Society will vote on the matter. Schwerin promised to prevent the whole process from dragging on forever.

The Board then took up the question of the 2002 Annual Meeting. In pursuance of the Board's expressed desire for a west coast meeting in the near future, Peter Stone has been in contact with Charles Weyand, a longtime member of the BRS who lives in Los Angeles. Weyand is willing to work with other west coast Society members in setting up a meeting in Los Angeles next year; he has already contacted many of them and received varying degrees of support. He has not, however, proposed a definite meeting time or place. In addition, as Alan Schwerin pointed out, a meeting in Los Angeles could be expensive.

In light of the indeterminate nature of the Los Angeles proposal, Ken Blackwell expressed the desire for a backup location. Thom Weidlich suggested Rochester. David White expressed some interest but thought that the timing could be cut very close if Rochester had to wait and see if Los Angeles would work out. He also outlined some of the shortcomings of meeting in Rochester—most notably, the absence of high-quality meeting space. Steve Bayne suggested that MIT might be a suitable venue in Boston, but did not push the matter further. Peter Friedman mentioned the University of Pittsburgh in the same light; furthermore, as home to the papers of F.P. Ramsey and Rudolph Carnap, it might be especially appropriate. However, Peter Stone asked if the BRS had any active members in Pittsburgh, and received a negative response.

Ken Blackwell stressed the need for fresh ideas as to meeting sites, and proposed asking the Society for further ideas at its business meeting the following day. Thom Weidlich, however, felt uncomfortable with leaving the matter without a motion, and Peter Stone and Steve Bayne concurred.

Ray Perkins suggested the Society revisit the Center for Inquiry in Amherst, NY (near Buffalo). Tim Madigan agreed to breach the idea with his contacts there but was not optimistic. In addition, he seconded David White's assessment of the drawbacks of Rochester.

Ken Blackwell stressed that the BRS had not met on the west coast since 1993. If not a west coast meeting now, he asked, then when? He proposed working with Charles Weyand to secure a place and time by

June 30, and going with a backup location (as yet to be determined) after that. Kevin Brodie proposed reserving space in Buffalo and then canceling if Los Angeles worked out. Nick Griffin, however, indicated that such a move would double the work and expense of the early stages of the meeting process. David White supported Blackwell's proposal, but stressed the importance of having people with experience organizing conferences involved with the process; if Weyand had no such experience, that meant that the President and others would have to work very closely with him. There was no substitute, however, for a person "on the ground" at the meeting site. Peter Stone expressed agreement.

The Board continued brainstorming for possible meeting places. Steve Bayne indicated having attended a good conference at SUNY Buffalo; perhaps a good meeting could be organized there. Ray Perkins thought that his own university (Plymouth State College, in central New Hampshire) might be able to serve as host. Nick Griffin suggested McMaster follow Alan Schwerin and Monmouth University in hosting the meeting twice in a row, an idea of which Ken Blackwell did not approve.

Steve Bayne suggested Iowa and Chicago as other possibilities. Ken Blackwell, however, reiterated the need for a BRS member onsite, and proposed working with Los Angeles, with Plymouth State College as a backup. Peter Stone asked if a motion was required to this effect, as was done in previous years. Blackwell said no. Alan Schwerin then moved that the Board make no motion on the question of a 2002 meeting site. Nick Griffin seconded the motion, only to have Blackwell rule the motion out of order. The Board then proceeded to waste much time with Russell Paradox-related jokes about a motion not to make a motion. In the end, the Board decided (without a motion, paradoxical or otherwise) to leave the annual meeting location site in the hands of the officers of the Society and Board, with the understanding that Los Angeles and Plymouth State College would be the first and second meeting location choices, respectively.

The next item on the Board's agenda concerned the Society's publication. The Greater Rochester Russell Set (GRRS, the BRS's unofficial chapter in Rochester, New York) had produced the May issue of the *Bertrand Russell Society Quarterly* in May (the first time in several years when an issue of the *Quarterly* had appeared in the month advertised). Peter Stone, as a member of the GRRS, proposed that the Board

- 1) officially reestablish the *Bertrand Russell Society Quarterly* (officially disbanded at the 2000 Annual Board Meeting, but unofficially revived by the GRRS);
- 2) establish a *Quarterly* Committee, with the responsibility of producing the *Quarterly*, and with the understanding that the Chair of this Committee would also serve as editor of the *Quarterly*; and
- 3) appoint Peter Stone as Chairman of this Committee.

Ken Blackwell expressed approval of this proposal. He argued that it was about time the Society placed its *Quarterly* operations on an official level. Kevin Brodie moved that the Board approve Peter Stone's proposal, and Alan Schwerin seconded the motion.

Alan Schwerin asked if any Rochester-area universities would be involved with the project. David White explained that St. John Fisher College had provided the tax-exempt status for the nonprofit mailing rate but did not furnish further support. He suggested the BRS establish what would be necessary to send the *Quarterly* out under its own imprimatur should this prove necessary. He further urged Dennis Darland to send him a check for the May issue as soon as possible.

Peter Friedman suggested the BRS consider a web version of the *Quarterly*. Peter Stone promised to investigate the possibility after the GRRS had placed the publication on a secure footing. After further discussion and clarification, the Board passed the motion endorsing Stone's proposal unanimously.

The Board then held elections for Board and Society officers. The Board first considered whether to maintain the Vice Presidency for Humanist Outreach. Steve Bayne moved that the office be changed to a more general Vice Presidency for Outreach, and that Peter Friedman be elected to this position. Warren Allen Smith seconded, and the Board approved the motion unanimously.

The Board then elected the following officers by acclamation:

Treasurer—Dennis Darland (nominated by Weidlich, seconded by Schwerin)
President—Alan Schwerin (nominated by Perkins, seconded by Griffin)
Secretary of the Society and Board—Steve Bayne (nominated by Perkins, seconded by Weidlich)
Vice President—Ray Perkins (nominated by Schwerin, seconded by Madigan)

Chair—Ken Blackwell (nominated by Stone, seconded by Schwerin)

Ken Blackwell was reluctant to stand for reelection, and only agreed to do so because of the evident lack of other candidates.

The final issue taken up by the Board at this meeting was the question of BRS-List, the BRS's listserv. The repeated spamming of this list by John Boland has prompted Ken Blackwell to seek more explicit Board authorization from this list, rather than the tacit, unofficial support currently given to it. With such authorization, he would feel better equipped to deal with possible abuses of the list. Peter Stone moved that

- 1) BRS-List become an official listserv for the BRS;
- 2) The purpose of BRS-List is to allow members to make BRS-related announcements and to discuss BRS-related business (in accordance with the more detailed description of the list proffered by Ken Blackwell);
- 3) The list-owner of BRS-List be empowered to ensure that BRS-List serve this purpose, using all appropriate means up to and including removal of a BRS member from the listserv; and
- 4) Ken Blackwell be approved as list-owner of BRS-List.

Thom Weidlich seconded Peter Stone's motion, which the Board then unanimously approved.

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of the BRS Board of
Directors
Peter Stone
Secretary, BRS Board of Directors**

The BRS Board of Directors held a special meeting on Sunday, May 27, 2001, in conjunction with the BRS Annual Meeting at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario. Ken Blackwell chaired. Peter Stone took notes. Directors present were Stefan Andersson, Steve Bayne, Ken Blackwell, Tim Madigan, Steve Reinhardt, Alan Schwerin, Warren Allen Smith, Peter Stone, Thom Weidlich, and David White. Peter Friedman also attended; as Vice President for Outreach, he participated as an *ex officio* Director. A number of other BRS members, including Dave Henehan, also attended the meeting.

At the conclusion of the 2001 Annual Meeting, Ken Blackwell realized that the BRS Board of Directors had left several issues unresolved. He

therefore, in conjunction with Directors Steve Reinhardt and Peter Stone, called for a special meeting in accordance with the Bylaws of the BRS Board of Directors. Blackwell arranged the special meeting to coincide with the tail end of the 2001 Annual Meeting of the BRS so as to ensure maximum possible participation of the Board, in accordance with the Board's Bylaws (Article 6, Section 2).

Ken Blackwell opened the meeting by expressing his wish to amend the Bylaws of the BRS Board of Directors. Currently, those Bylaws set a quorum for a Board meeting of only 3 directors (out of 24 plus *ex officio* directors). Moreover, a special meeting of the BRS Board of Directors can be called upon the request of only 3 directors (as was done in the case of this special meeting). Blackwell found the number for the quorum far too low, and urged the Board to consider amending this provision. Peter Stone moved that the Board raise the quorum for a board meeting to 6 (thus changing Article 6, Section 4 of the Board Bylaws). Steve Bayne seconded.

Stefan Andersson questioned the need for such a change in the Bylaws. Ken Blackwell responded by explaining the circumstances under which he recognized the need for change. In the days leading up to the opening of the Bertrand Russell Research Centre (held in November 2000), Blackwell had asked the Board if the directors attending wished to hold a special Board meeting so as to address the question of declining membership. Some directors indicated that they would not be attending the opening but favored a special meeting. This drew Blackwell's attention to how easy it was to schedule a special Board meeting, and how low the quorum was.

Peter Friedman worried that this change might cause the BRS to react too slowly to new circumstances. Ken Blackwell assured him that most Society business was conducted by the various officers, and now by the newly formed Executive Committee. Alan Schwerin added that as things stood now a small number of directors could take some action that would embarrass the BRS against the wishes of the majority, and Blackwell concurred that the change would provide a safety net against this possibility. Peter Friedman then admitted that this method could be tried and changed if it did not work.

Warren Allen Smith asked if there was any advantage to an odd quorum. Stefan Andersson asked if there was any advantage to an even one. Ken Blackwell said no to both. Steve Bayne asked if proxy votes could affect

the procedure at all. Ken Blackwell said that proxy votes were acceptable only for votes of the Society as a whole, not the Board.

Alan Schwerin said that the number requested in the motion was an improvement without setting a figure too high as to pose problems with regular Board meetings. Peter Stone concurred, but added that the Chair should make a strong effort to encourage enough directors to attend meetings so as to obviate the problem of the quorum. The Board then passed the motion 10-0, with 1 abstention.

Peter Stone then noted that he was stepping down as BRS Awards Committee Chair. He nominated Kevin Brodie to take over the position. Warren Allen Smith seconded the motion, and it carried 10-0, with 1 abstention. This concluded the meeting.

* * *

A Post-Meeting Note from the Chair

The accounts for the annual meeting are complete. The meeting was designed to break even, and it did. There was even a slight surplus of \$40 for the BRS treasury. In addition, the meeting attracted 7 new members for the Society, and t-shirt sales netted \$148.20.

Thanks are due the Bertrand Russell Research Centre (and its director, Nick Griffin), which hosted the meeting, Alison Miculan, Arlene Duncan, David Godden, and Liz Blackwell.

-Ken Blackwell

* * *

The 5th Biennial Radical Philosophy Association Conference will be held at Brown University on November 7-10, 2002. The theme of the conference is "Activism, Ideology, and Radical Philosophy." Please send paper, workshop, poster, and other proposals to RPA PROGRAM COMMITTEE, c/o Lisa Heldke, Philosophy Department, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN 56802. Or send them as an attachment to heldke@gac.edu. The deadline for submissions is **January 31, 2002**. For more information on the RPA, go to www.radicalphilosophy.org.

Articles:

The Manuscript of "Mysticism and Logic" at Auction Carl Spadoni

"At last I have a bone with meat on it," L.P. Jacks, the editor of *The Hibbert Journal*, told Russell on 20 April 1912, after reading his essay, "Mysticism and Logic." "If you had my work for a week you would know what a joy it is," Jacks added. Russell's essay, which focuses on the tension between the mystical and the logical, is unquestionably one of his most important pieces of writing. First published in July 1914 in *The Hibbert Journal*, it has been reprinted frequently. The section of the essay called "Reason and Intuition" appeared in Russell's Lowell Lectures, *Our Knowledge of the External World* (1914). The essay was the lead article in *Mysticism and Logic, and Other Essays* (1918).

Writing the essay did not come easy to Russell, however. He was dissatisfied with its first draft on 11 January 1914 because it consisted mainly of scraps from other lectures. Even when he altered it a few days later, he was disappointed with the result. He told Lady Ottoline Morrell that the essay was "sober, careful, and balanced" but not eloquent. Jacks sent proofs to Russell on 28 April 1914. He returned the manuscript by separate post to Russell at Trinity College, Cambridge. When Russell was lecturing in the United States in May of the same year, he gave the manuscript as a gift to his good friend, Lucy Donnelly. When Professor John Slater edited the essay for volume 8 of the *Collected Papers of Bertrand Russell*, he was unable to locate the manuscript in Donnelly's archives or elsewhere. Its whereabouts were unknown for more than 85 years. The fact that the manuscript surfaced at auction in San Francisco on 10 May of this year was cause for excitement among Russell scholars.

According to the description in Butterfields' auction catalogue (lot 3067), the manuscript is 44 pages long. The estimate was modest, between \$4,000 and \$6,000. Russell's manuscript was one of many treasures in the catalogue—an early photo of Hitler as a corporal, a page of a manuscript by Isaac Newton, letters from Margaret Mitchell, and most conspicuously, a battered briefcase embossed "J.F.K." (apparently a wedding present from Jacqueline Bouvier to her future husband, John F. Kennedy). At McMaster University, however, only the Russell manuscript interested us. Butterfields reproduced the first page in facsimile. Even a brief glimpse of it showed that there were textual variants and deletions. Bob Riemenschneider of the BRS viewed the manuscript in San Francisco and confirmed that there were many more.