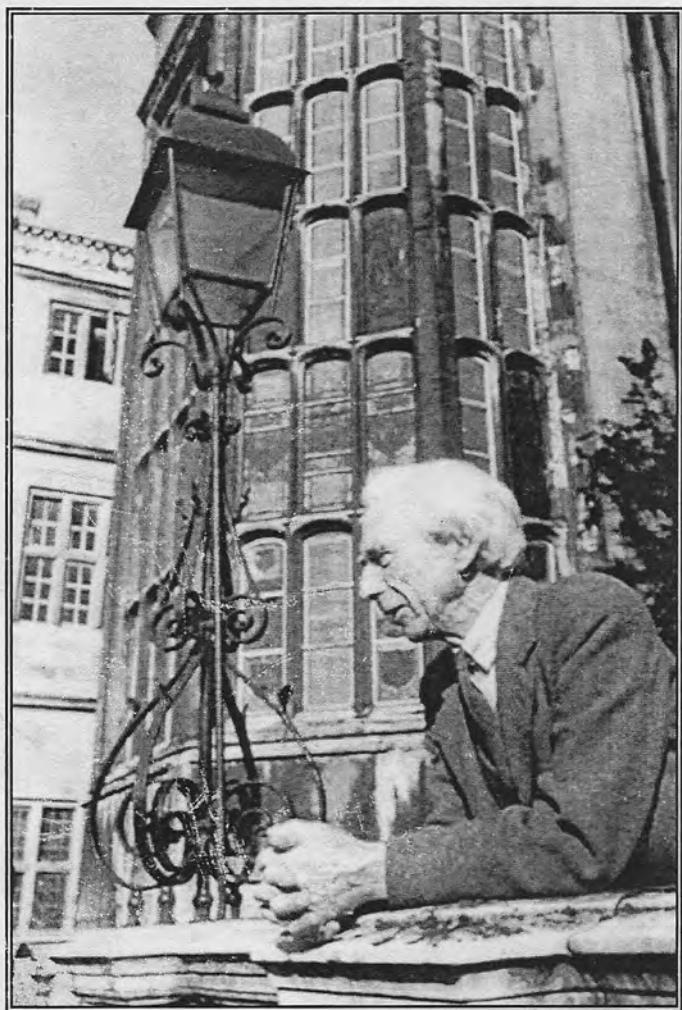


*THE BERTRAND RUSSELL SOCIETY  
QUARTERLY*

February, 2000

No. 102



THE BERTRAND RUSSELL SOCIETY  
THE BERTRAND RUSSELL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Please mail this form and payment to:  
Bertrand Russell Society  
1400 28th St  
Berkeley, CA 94708  
Phone: (415) 841-2800

I have looked at the membership categories below and have checked the appropriate category for my membership. I have also indicated on the front page of the form the amount of my payment.

It is time to renew your membership.

- ◆ If you have already renewed for 2000 or have joined the BRS in 2000, **please accept the thanks of the Society once again for your participation.**
- ◆ If you have **not** yet renewed your membership for 2000 -- or if you would like to join the BRS for the first time -- **please mail the form on the next page along with your payment TODAY. Thank you.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
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E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY \_\_\_\_\_  
AMOUNT OF PAYMENT \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## THE BERTRAND RUSSELL SOCIETY 2000 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Please mail this form and payment to:

Dennis Darland  
Treasurer  
Bertrand Russell Society  
1406 26th St.  
Rock Island, Illinois 61201-2837

I have looked at the membership categories below and have checked the appropriate category for my circumstances. I have enclosed my 2000 dues in U.S. funds payable to the "Bertrand Russell Society". (Please print clearly.)

- Individual \$35
- Couple \$40
- Student \$20
- Limited Income Individual \$20
- Limited Income Couple \$25
  
- Contributor \$50 and up
- Sustainer \$75 and up
- Patron \$250 and up
- Organization Membership \$50
- Sponsor \$100 and up
- Benefactor \$500 and up
- Life Member \$1,000 and up

PLUS \$10 if outside U.S.A., Canada or Mexico

PLUS \$4 if in Canada or Mexico

Total \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS:

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

**THE BERTRAND RUSSELL SOCIETY**

***QUARTERLY***

***Newsletter of the Bertrand Russell Society***

**February, 2000**

**No. 102**

<b>FROM THE EDITOR</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<b>BERTRAND RUSSELL RESEARCH CENTRE</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<b>VOTING FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
<b>RUSSELL NEWS</b>	<b>Page 5</b>
<b>DR. HENRY MORGENTHAU: A DIFFICULT HERO</b> Rachel Murray	<b>Page 7</b>
<b>A RUSSELL PUZZLE PAGE</b> Gerry Wilderberg	<b>Page 10</b>
<b>GREATER RUSSELL ROCHESTER SET</b>	<b>Page 11</b>
<b>2000 ANNUAL MEETING</b>	<b>Page 11</b>
<b>SOLUTIONS TO THE RUSSELL PUZZLE PAGE</b> Gerry Wilderberg	<b>Page 14</b>
<b>MINUTES OF THE 1999 BRS DIRECTORS MEETING</b> Peter Stone	<b>Page 14</b>
<b>MINUTES OF THE 1999 BRS SOCIETY MEETING</b> Peter Stone	<b>Page 22</b>
<b>TREASURER'S REPORT</b> Dennis Darland	<b>Page 24</b>
<b>BOOK REVIEW: FLEW'S <i>HOW TO THINK STRAIGHT</i></b> Santiago Zorzopulos	<b>Page 25</b>
<b>MEMBERSHIP PROFILE: YVES FOURNIER</b>	<b>Page 27</b>
<b>BRS PROFILE QUESTIONNAIRE</b>	<b>Page 29</b>

**FROM THE EDITOR  
JOHN SHOSKY  
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY**

The Annual Meeting is coming up fast. And it's time to vote for the Board of Directors. Inside the envelope containing this issue you will find a ballot. Please choose eight members to serve on the Board. Then send the ballot via e-mail, snail mail, or phone to Alan Schwerin by June 1st. Thank you for your quick response.

The cover photo shows Russell at Trinity College, Cambridge.

**BERTRAND RUSSELL RESEARCH CENTER  
McMASTER UNIVERSITY**

The editor has received the following report, passed on by Ken Blackwell:

"The Faculty of Humanities has established a Bertrand Russell Research Centre at McMaster. The Centre will bring a variety of activities relating to the famous philosopher together for administrative purposes.

Daniel Woolf, Dean of Humanities, notes that the Faculty has identified Russell studies as an academic priority. 'This is a way of harmonizing a number of activities which currently operate under various umbrellas, and bring them together under one roof.' The actual Bertrand Russell Archives, located in Mills Library, would remain there, he adds.

'It is remarkable that [McMaster] has the papers of Bertrand Russell. It has great significance for the Faculty and the University,' Woolf says.

The Centre will be housed within the Faculty and be administered by a director. It is expected that the Centre will be operational by July 2000. The Centre will inherit the premisses currently occupied by the Russell Editorial Project, in TSH-719, along with its telephone number (905-525-9140-x24896) and e-mail contact ([duncana@mcmaster.ca](mailto:duncana@mcmaster.ca)).

The activities that will come under the auspices of the Centre include the *Collected Papers* project, publication of *Russell: the Journal of Bertrand Russell Studies*, and presentation of the annual Bertrand Russell Peace Lectures, sponsored by the Centre for Peace Studies. Other activities are being considered.

'This is an imaginative initiative by Dean Woolf,' comments Richard Rempel, who

is retiring as director of the Russell Editorial Project. 'It will extend and deepen the boundaries of research on Russell by bringing scholars and post-docs to McMaster.'

Both Woolf and Rempel say that the most important advantage of such a Centre will be the opportunities it offers for building on McMaster's strength as the international homes of Russell studies.

'It will be a major intellectual stimulus for McMaster,' says Rempel, 'and will place the University in the forefront of research related to liberal ideas and thought in the 20th century.'

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS BERTRAND RUSSELL SOCIETY "CAST YOUR VOTES"**

Each year we elect one-third of the 24 Board Members of the Bertrand Russell Society. This year eight members are ending a three year term which began in January of 1997: James Alouf, Jan Loeb Eisler, Nicholas Griffin, Robert T. James, Justin Leiber, Chandrakala Padia, Harry Ruja, and Peter Stone.

Here are the biographies of the ten nominees for the Board of Directors. The nominees have supplied some of the information for these biographies.

**James Alouf:** "I have just completed a three year term on the Board and have accepted renomination because I believe that I can offer yet another interpretation of Russell and what the society should be doing to promote Russell's ideas."

**Robert Barnard:** (supplied by the editor) He is the Spindel Doctoral Fellow at University of Memphis, where he is completing his dissertation. He has taught at Memphis and the University of Mississippi. He will assume a full-time teaching position at the University of Mississippi in the Fall 2000 semester. He has given several conference papers on Russell, including the BRS Annual Meeting in 1998, the BRS session at APA Eastern in 1999, and the Russell/Wittgenstein Conference in 2000.

**Steven Bayne:** "My background is philosophy and history. I have several publications and have lectured on Russell, once in relation to Meinong, and recently on Russell's theory of space. I have also lectured on 'Human/Machine Interaction' (MIT, 1997) and logical models of causation (FISI at Buffalo, 1994). Soon, I hope to give a paper on Russell's relation to mathematicians who were not logicians. Currently, I am examining early philosophical responses to the 'new'

physics. My main concern is to see that the BRS explores new funding resources. I have experience with the press and public relations."

**Jan Eisler:** "We have opportunities to present an expanded Russell Society as never before. This is the time to go forward. Our presence in IHEU and other international venues offers a respected exposure long needed. I am willing and able to provide leadership towards reversing our declining membership."

**Keith Green:** "I am a Senior Lecturer in Linguistics at Sheffield Hallam University, UK. I have published widely in linguistics, literary studies, and the philosophy of language. My publications include "New Essays in Deixis" (1995) and "Critical Theory and Practice" (1996), as well as articles on Russell, in whom I have a special interest. I gave a paper at the 1999 Society conference at Monmouth. My book, *Spectres and Scimitars: Bertrand Russell, Language and Linguistic Theory*, will be published in late 2000 or early 2001. I am keen to see the Society grow and thrive, and I wish to encourage new members from the UK and Europe, as well as from the United States and Canada."

**Nicholas Griffin:** (supplied by Ken Blackwell) He has a life-long interest in Bertrand Russell. Since 1976, he has been able to indulge that interest as a member of the philosophy department at McMaster University, where he has had a special responsibility for research connected with the Bertrand Russell Archives. He was one of the original editors of the *Collected Papers of Bertrand Russell*, and has published many articles on Russell's life and works. His book, *Russell's Idealistic Apprenticeship*, was published in 1991 and honoured with the BRS book award. More recently, he has been editing the *Selected Letters of Bertrand Russell* and is now editing the *Cambridge Companion to Russell*. He has been a member of the BRS for many years.

**Justin Fritz Leiber:** (supplied by Ken Blackwell) He has a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago and a B.Phil from Oxford. At Oxford, A.J. Ayer was one of his graduate tutors. His books include *Noam Chomsky: A Philosophical Overview, Structuralism, Can Animals and Machines Be Persons?, Paradoxes, An Invitation to Cognitive Science*, and a science fiction trilogy -- *Beyond Rejection, Beyond Humanity, and Beyond Gravity*. The first five chapters of *Beyond Rejection* are anthologized in Hofstadter and Dennett's *The Mind's I* and in several introductions to philosophy. Many of these books have been issued in translation. His published papers concern the work of Noam Chomsky, Alan Turing, and Ludwig Wittgenstein.

**Chandrakala Padia:** (supplied by Ken Blackwell) She teaches philosophy at Benares Hindu University, India. She is the author of *Liberty and Social Transformation: A Study in Bertrand Russell's Political Thought*. She heads up

the BRS's chapter in Benares, which has organized numerous events concerning Russell.

**Harry Ruja:** (supplied by Ken Blackwell) He is a retired professor of philosophy from San Diego State University. He has written numerous papers on Russell, and edited *Mortals and Others* (a collection of Russell's lesser known articles) and (with Ken Blackwell) the 3-volume *Bibliography of Bertrand Russell*. He has been active in BRS for many years and is a former Chairman of the Board.

**Peter Stone:** (supplied by Ken Blackwell) He is a graduate student in political science at the University of Rochester. He has been a member of the BRS for ten years, and currently serves as Secretary of the Society and as Chairman of its Awards Committee. He is also active in promoting Russell through the Greater Rochester Russell Set, a local chapter of the BRS which holds regular discussions of Russell's work. If elected, he hopes to continue to work on resolving the Society's organizational problems so it may grow and prosper in the future.

## RUSSELL NEWS

Check out the BRS web page at <http://www.users.drew.edu/~jlenz/brs.html>. There you will find information on the society, calls for papers, and other vital data. The web site is maintained by the hard-working John Lenz, who is due our continuous thanks for a job well done.

Jack Odell has published a book, *On Russell*, Wadsworth, 2000. Unfortunately, more is not known at this time.

Thom Weidlich has just published *Appointment Denied: The Inquisition of Bertrand Russell* (Amherst: Prometheus Books, 2000). Reviews are forthcoming from John Lenz and others. The ISBN is 1-57392-788-0. It is very well researched and written, according to many who have read it.

Ken Blackwell reports that there is a taped interview between Studs Terkel and Russell. The transcript appeared in Terkel's *Talking to Myself*, 1977. The audio may be found in *Four Decades with Studs Terkel* (sound recording, St. Paul: Penguin Highbridge Audio, 1993). There are four sound cassettes in analog stereo, Dolby processed. Russell is on tape three.

John Lenz notes that there is a forthcoming new article entitled "Russell on Religion with Buddhist Commentaries, by Dr. Albert Shansky of Fairfield University. It may be found in the April/May issue of *Philosophy Now*.



Ken Blackwell tells us that the 14th Annual Bertrand Russell Peace Lectures were given by Johan Galtung at McMaster University on March 27 and 28, 2000. John Galtung is Distinguished Professor of Peace Studies at the University of Hawaii, the University of Witten/Herdecke (Germany), the European Peace University, and the University of Tromso (Norway). He established the International Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO) in 1959, and the *Journal of Peace Research* in 1964. He has had an international academic career spanning 40 years, five continents, a dozen major executive positions, and over 30 visiting professorships. Dr. Galtung has worked extensively for the United Nations family of organizations and currently serves as the Founding Director of TRANSCEND, a Peace and Development Network of approximately 100 scholars and activists worldwide. He is the author of over 70 books and the recipient of numerous awards. The titles of the lectures were "The Big Power Approach, With Examples" (March 27) and "Alternative Approaches, With Examples" (March 28).

Russell's article of 1964, "16 Questions on the Assassination," is part of the material for a course in the examination of the John F. Kennedy assassination at the University of Rhode Island. The class (PSC482G) is entitled "Political Science Seminar: The JFK Assassination." The instructor is Kenneth A. Rahn. The article is on the course's website at [http://karws.gso.uri.edu/PSC482G/Spring2000/The\\_critics/Russell/Russell\\_bio.html](http://karws.gso.uri.edu/PSC482G/Spring2000/The_critics/Russell/Russell_bio.html). The link is to a brief bio of Russell on which the article link appears.

Ray Perkins shared a great letter from the *London Times*, February 28, 1959, p. 7g (or 7q): "In order to discourage confusions which have been constantly occurring, we beg herewith to state that neither of us is the other. Yours, etc., RUSSELL (Bertrand, Earl Russell) and RUSSELL OF LIVERPOOL (Lord Russell of Liverpool), February 25."

There is a collection of quotations attributed to Russell at [http://cybernation.com/victory/quotations/authors/quotes\\_russell\\_bertrand.html](http://cybernation.com/victory/quotations/authors/quotes_russell_bertrand.html)

Please note three new members whose addresses may not be included on the membership list: Jaako Suoninen, Ojennustie 3, FIN-9960 Sodankyla Finland; Kevin Bodie, PO Box 488, Colchester, Connecticut 06415; and Glenn Moyer, 34 N. 16th Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania 18102-4203. Also, please note an address change for David Rodier to 18625 Mustard Seed Court, Germantown, Maryland 20874.

Richard Rempel, professor of history at McMaster University and since 1978 project director of the *Collected Papers of Bertrand Russell*, has announced his retirement. The 15th volume in the series will be published in June. He is a landmark figure whose tireless work has introduced countless people to Russell's

thought. He deserves the well-earned thanks of every Russell scholar.

The American University conference on Russell and Wittgenstein in March was a success. The Department of Philosophy and Religion has committed to a second conference in late February, 2002.

While not concerning Russell, the present editor highly recommends Peter Matthiessen and Maurice Hornocker's *Tigers in the Snow* (New York: North Point Press, 2000). It is about efforts to save the Siberian Tiger. It would be interesting to have someone research Russell's position on the environmental crisis, particularly the destruction of habitats and the extinction of species. The ISBN is 0-86547-576-8.

## **DR. HENRY MORGENTALER: A DIFFICULT HERO BY RACHEL MURRAY**

By awarding Dr. Henry Morgentaler -- one of Canada's leading advocates of abortion rights and reproductive freedom -- the 1999 BRS Annual Award, the Bertrand Russell Society has honoured a man who is both a hero and an enigma. For those of you unfamiliar with Dr. Morgentaler or his work, I'm going to give you a very brief background and some reasons why we've decided upon this Canadian for this year's award. All of this biographical information has been taken from the book *Morgentaler: A Difficult Hero* by Catherine Dunphy (Toronto: Random House, 1996) and additionally supplemented by the book *Morgentaler: The Doctor Who Couldn't Turn Away* by Eleanor Wright Pelrine (Toronto: Gage Publishing Limited, 1975). While I was unfortunately unable to attend the annual meeting at which the award was officially presented, as a Canadian and BRS member, I am gratified by the BRS's decision.

Dr. Henry Morgentaler was born March 19, 1923 in Lodz, Poland, to Josef and Golda Morgentaler. Perhaps one of the greatest influences on him was his experiences in Poland during the Second World War. This man, who has been vilified as evil, was a survivor of both Auschwitz and Dachau, and lost both parents in Auschwitz. After the war, he went to medical school at Marburg-Lahn University, continuing his education in Belgium. Dr. Morgentaler speaks English, French, German, Polish, and Yiddish; his original education in English came from reading "Little Lord Fauntleroy."

Morgentaler married his wife Chava (Eva), a fellow Holocaust survivor and childhood friend, and arrived in Canada in February 1950 with \$20 U.S. in his pocket. After coming to Canada, Morgentaler faced anti-Semitism in his attempt

to become a doctor, having to repeat exams he passed in Belgium. Eventually he became certified and opened a family practice in Montreal, becoming a Canadian citizen in 1955. Dunphy writes that, after his immigration to Canada, "Henry was a successful physician, but tormented by a need to do more for society than tend to grateful patients' ailments...[T]hat Henry survived five precarious years in the ghetto and the last nine months of the war at Auschwitz and Dachau should be viewed as a triumph. But it was not that clear cut for Henry...(He) was not convinced that living an ordinary life was enough."

It was around 1963 that Morgentaler was exposed to humanism, which led him to the issue of reproductive rights. It is interesting to note that his work on abortion came originally at the theoretical level -- in 1967 he worked on a humanist brief on abortion presented to a House of Commons standing committee. Indeed, as Dunphy writes, "Henry had approached the issue of abortion as a good humanist: he had applied pragmatic, rational, scientific-based thinking to an abstract."

Unfortunately, the issue of abortion is to many an emotional, contentious issue. Dunphy says that "Abortion would become the most divisive issue of the decade. It would ignite a movement, incite violence, and grow so corrosive it would nearly divide and conquer a people. And it would soon be wrestled from its birth control context of family size and women's health and relocated in a more contemporary, confusing, and perilous territory. It was the object of a power grab."

Not only was abortion volatile, it was also illegal in Canada. In a 1970 article in the *Humanist*, Morgentaler wrote, "I still cannot believe that I, who have always been a law abiding citizen, could bring myself to defy the law of the land and the state and to risk imprisonment, loss of license to practice medicine, the contempt of my colleagues, the ruin of my family, and the opprobrium that goes with that terrible word: abortionist. Here I was for the first time in my life doing my most daring thing in my life, really, defying the law of the new country that had adopted me, basically, and playing for very high stakes, risking prison, possibly my medical license, the security of my family."

As a result of his work, Morgentaler has been arrested numerous times and spent time in jail. As the American Humanist Association said when awarding him their 1975 Humanist of the Year award:

Dr. Henry Morgentaler was chosen to honour his work to reform abortion law in Canada. Abortions were legal, but could only be performed in hospitals, which in Quebec mostly denied abortions in spite of the law. Dr. Morgentaler performed abortions in his clinic, feeling women must have some recourse to safe procedures. As a result, he was harassed by authorities and

finally convicted on a criminal charge. Acquitted by a jury, the decision was overturned by the Canadian Supreme Court, and he was imprisoned in March, 1975. He was unable to receive his award until his release in 1976. Dr. Morgentaler is a former president of the Humanists of Canada. He has continued to work for women's rights, for secular Canadian schools, and other humanist causes.

Morgentaler's legal case had huge repercussions for Canadian society. His case centered on the relationship between the government and the individual, and whether the government or the person has control of an individual's body and that individual's future. In framing the issue in this way, we can see how Morgentaler fits into Russell's and humanism's vision of an ideal society -- one in which the individual -- all of us -- must work to ensure the human rights of others. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said it best: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Regardless of the words and rhetoric spawned by this debate, the thanks that Canadian women owe to Morgentaler is genuine and with good reason. By challenging inhumane laws and confronting out-of-date attitudes, Morgentaler has fought for the reproductive rights of women -- not only Canadian women, but all those who seek guidance in their challenges to repressive governmental regimes and policies. Their battles are especially crucial at a time when religious fundamentalism -- and especially in the States, radical Christian fundamentalism -- threatens the freedoms people have fought for in civil rights and feminist activism for the past thirty years. We all owe the Morgentalers of the world our thanks. For, you see, the simply right of a woman to choose and control her reproductive destiny has repercussions beyond the arena of sexual freedom. Morgentaler's battles continue the long tradition of activists who rage against the state, society, and the churches for the most honourable causes of justice, equality, fairness, and freedom. Through his dogged determination, Dr. Henry Morgentaler has fought -- and won -- reproductive freedoms for women in Canada. He has worked to correct an injustice that affects not only women or Canadians, but all of us. He has illustrated that the fight for reproductive rights reflects how we care for human beings and what rights we as a society truly believe in and determine are worth fighting for. For these and many other reasons, I am pleased that the BRS presented its award to Morgentaler.

Unfortunately, Morgentaler was unable to receive his award in person due to ill health, but as a native of Toronto I was able to bring the award to his clinic in that city and present it (with Peter Stone, the Chair of the BRS Awards Committee) to Morgentaler's personal assistant, Ms. Cathy Columbo.

I hope that all members of the BRS will give this steadfast crusader a large round

of applause in appreciation for all his work. Let's make it loud enough for him to hear it in Toronto!

**A RUSSELL PUZZLE PAGE  
BY GERRY WILDERBERG  
ST. JOHN FISHER COLLEGE**

Not long ago I solved one of the syndicated "CryptoQuote" type puzzles and found it was by Russell. This inspired the present submission.

The following are five "simple-substitution cyphers." That is to say they are coded quotes in which each letter stands for another letter. For example, BERTRAND RUSSELL could be coded as OREGENAQ EHFFRYY, O=B, R=E, etc., etc.

All of these quotes have been attributed to Russell. So extra fun may be had by locating the source and correcting my errors.

Solutions are found in a later section of the *Quarterly* on page 14.

1. YZX SXELXX WG WMXP XIWYUWM OVLUXP UMOXLPXCR DUYZ  
WMXP FMWDCXSEX WG YZX GVJYP YZX CXPP RWK FMWD YZX  
ZWYYXL RWK EXY.

2. VABP PEIA EF, ZK LKFZ LAU, B PKUW FAXKUG-DAFZ, B  
MAVMAZRBP XKLMVKLEFA DAZQAAU ZSA EGABP BUG ZSA  
MKFFEDPA; DRZ ZSA QKVPK KI MRVA VABFKU JUKQF UK  
XKLMVKLEFA, UK MVBXZEXBP PELEZBZEKUF, UK DBVVEAV ZK ZSA  
XVABZEYA BXZEYEZH.

3. XWO XG UEO YRUFUXJY XG SW SFFKXSQEPWA WOKMXNY  
LKOSDVXTW PY UEO LOBPOG UESU XWOY TXKD PY UOKKPLBR  
PJFKKUSWU.

4. ZBTP ZL DLLM OR DHP PBL ZOGG PH FLGOLUL, FWP PBL ZORB PH  
IODM HWP.

In the last one, I've made it a bit harder by removing the spaces between words and removing the punctuation. The grouping into "words" of five letters is just for readability. (Some Russellians may be surprised to learn that experienced puzzlists can solve cyphers of this type quite easily.)

5. EHQZB EOIXZ UBECV OESVX PEGIQ IGLEC OZEC CIESO ZOYIX

EBGIH CGVJB VCSIX ZUSVW IGOLA YVBYE GIIPW ZHVIH VJZJI PEMVP  
OYIUZ GODJE OIPDX OJZOW IGIXO GEVJI HVJOY IIMIG BVXIZ UOLGE  
JLZQ IGOYI DJUZG ODJEO I.

## **GREATER RUSSELL ROCHESTER SET SPRING, 2000 SCHEDULE**

Thursday, May 18 (Russell's Birthday)

Topic: Secularism

Suggested Reading: *Why I Am Not A Secularist* by William E. Connolly

A discussion of secularism and the challenges it faces today. There will be a cake and a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday to Bertie."

All meetings will take place at 7:00 p.m. at Blue Sunday Coffeehouse and Used Bookstore, 3118 E. Henrietta Road (corner of Lehigh Station Road), Rochester, New York. For directions, please contact the coffeehouse at 716-334-4415. For all other questions, contact Tim Madigan at 716-273-5778 (days)/716-424-3184 (evenings) or <[timothymad@aol.com](mailto:timothymad@aol.com)>.

All meetings are free and open to the public. Everyone is welcome and will be included in the discussion, whether they are novices or experts in Russell's work. Readings are highly recommended but not essential to benefit from the discussions.

## **2000 ANNUAL MEETING: MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY WEST LONG BRANCH, NEW JERSEY JUNE 2-4, 2000**

The Bertrand Russell Society will host its Annual Meeting at Monmouth University in New Jersey on June 2-4, 2000. Fifteen papers from an international group of Russell scholars have been accepted for the conference. The papers are not technical and will be intelligible to both an academic and a non-academic audience. The presenters will be given twenty minutes to deliver their papers, with a further twenty minutes for discussion from the audience.

If you would like to attend the meeting, please contact Alan Schwerin at Department of Political Science and Philosophy, Monmouth University, West Long Branch, New Jersey 07764 (e-mail [aschweri@monmouth.edu](mailto:aschweri@monmouth.edu) or phone 732-571-

4470).

A web site has been built for the conference at <http://www.monmouth.edu/~aschweri/brs/>

For virtual attendance at the Annual Meeting, see the source page. Questions following each paper will include participation from the virtual audience. The source is [www.monmouth.edu/brs](http://www.monmouth.edu/brs)

Participants who stay on campus should contact Alan as soon as they arrive. His office is located in 243 Bey Hall.

Here is the schedule at the time of the *Quarterly's* publication:

Friday, June 2, 2000

- 5:00 - 6:00      Registration, Turrell Board Room, Second Floor, Bey Hall
- 6:00 - 7:30      Dinner in "The Club" (on campus)
- 7:30 - 8:00      Welcome from **Ken Blackwell** and **Alan Schwerin**, Turrell Board Room, Bey Hall
- 8:00 -10:00      Open discussion of Russell's views on religion, including the audio presentation of portions of the Russell/Copleston debate on the existence of God

Saturday, June 3, 2000

- 8:15 - 8:45      Registration, Turrell Board Room, Bey Hall
- 8:45 - 9:25      **Stefan Andersson**, Lund University, "Russell on Mysticism (Part II)"
- 9:30 -10:10      **Mark Couch**, Columbia University, "Russell's Criticism of Moore's Proof"
- 10:15 -10:55      **Steven Bayne**, Independent Scholar, "Russell and those 'Other' Mathematicians"
- 11:00 -11:40      **Burdett Gardner**, Monmouth University

- (Emeritus), "Bertrand Russell and the Terminological Fallacy"
- 11:45 -12:25 **David White**, St. John Fisher College, "Russell on the Web"
- 12:30 - 1:30 Lunch -- The Board of Directors will have a working lunch in the Turrell Board Room
- 2:00 - 2:40 **Boris Kukso**, Duke University, "Russell's Logical Atomism and Armstrong's Philosophy of States of Affairs"
- 2:45 - 3:25 **Roselind Carey**, Boston University, "Russell's Working Notes on Propositions Appended to *Theory of Knowledge*"
- 3:30 - 4:10 **Edgar Boedeker**, Northern Illinois University, "The Hidden Influence of Russell's Theory of Substitution on Wittgenstein's N-operator"
- 4:15 - 4:55 **Chad Trainer**, Independent Scholar, "Language: A Leading or a Lagging Indicator of Truth for Russell?"
- 6:00 Banquet at Squire's Pub. Drinks at 6:00. Meal at 7:00.

Sunday, June 4, 2000

- 8:15 - 8:45 Registration, Turrell Board Room, Bey Hall
- 8:45 - 9:25 **Matt Caia**, American University, "The Problem of Causality in Sense Experience: Russell's Assessment of Locke"
- 9:30 -10:10 **John Shosky**, American University, "Russell and Quine"
- 10:15 -10:55 **Rom Harré**, Oxford University (Emeritus) and American University, "Reference Revisited"
- 11:00 -11:40 **Ken Stunkle**, Monmouth University, "Russell on History"



- 11:45 -12:25     **Thom Weidlich**, Editor, *PR Week*, "Russell's Sexual Revolution"
- 12:30 -1:15     **Nick Griffin**, McMaster University, "Russell's Logicism is not If-Thenism"
- 2:00 -4:30        Barbecue at Helen and Alan's Home

**SOLUTIONS TO THE RUSSELL PUZZLE PAGE**  
**GERRY WILDERBERG**  
**ST. JOHN FISHER COLLEGE**

1. The degree of one's emotion varies inversely with one's knowledge of the facts -- the less you know the hotter you get.
2. Real life is, to most men, a long second-best, a perpetual compromise between the ideal and the possible; but the world of pure reason knows no compromise, no practical limitations, no barrier to the creative activity.
3. One of the symptoms of an approaching nervous breakdown is the belief that one's work is terribly important.
4. What we need is not the will to believe, but the wish to find out.
5. Advocates of capitalism are very apt to appeal to the sacred principles of liberty, which are embodied in one maxim: The fortunate must not be restrained in the exercise of tyranny over the unfortunate.

**MINUTES OF THE 1999 ANNUAL MEETING**  
**OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**SUBMITTED BY**  
**PETER STONE**  
**UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER**

The BRS Board of Directors held its annual meeting on June 4 and 6, 1999, in conjunction with the BRS Annual Meeting at Monmouth University, West Long Branch, New Jersey. Ken Blackwell chaired. Peter Stone took notes. Directors present on June 4th were Stefan Andersson, Ken Blackwell, Jan Loeb Eisler, John Lenz, Tim Madigan, Ray Perkins, Steve Reinhardt, David Rodier, Alan Schwerin, Warren Allen Smith, Peter Stone, Thom Weidlich, and Ruili Ye. Perkins and

Rodier were absent from the second part of the meeting on June 6th.

David Rodier moved to suspend a reading of the minutes from the last Board meeting and to approve the minutes. Thom Weidlich seconded, and the Board approved the motion unanimously.

John Lenz gave the (temporary) treasurer's report. The group is somewhat flush with money right now, but this is primarily because the Society has not yet produced a *Quarterly* this year (Tim Madigan is currently working on a double issue for February and May). Each *Quarterly* costs \$700 or more. Lenz gave Peter Stone a copy of the treasurer's report, and Stone will make sure it gets published with the minutes.

Ken Blackwell reported on membership. The BRS had about 175 members last year and about 120 so far this year (renewals continue to trickle in). The Board then briefly discussed the problem of declining membership. Jan Eisler suggested that the group needed exposure, possibly through a speaker who could talk on Russell at various humanist events. Ray Perkins suggested t-shirts or bumper stickers. Ken Blackwell said that finding a picture for a t-shirt that the BRS could legally use should not be a problem. Blackwell will endeavor to find such a picture and pass it on to Thom Weidlich, who will investigate the manufacture of Russell t-shirts and report back to the Board about it. Blackwell suggested that the BRS might even wish to give a t-shirt out with membership.

The Board then briefly discussed the arrangements for the treasurer. Dennis Darland, while still officially treasurer, has been on leave for almost a year. John Lenz and Ken Blackwell have taken on the duties of handling funds and maintaining the membership list, respectively. Darland is willing to resume his duties, and several Board members voiced the view that Darland seemed perfectly able to do so.

In addition, Peter Stone voiced concern about the monthly fees Dennis Darland has been paying on the BRS's bank account. Apparently, when the treasurer's duties were shifted from Darland to John Lenz, most of the money was taken from the BRS account maintained by Darland, leaving only a residual amount to keep the account open. The small amount of money in the account requires the BRS to pay fees to keep the account open. When Lenz transfers the BRS's money back to Darland, this problem should cease. Jan Eisler inquired if the BRS could earn any form of interest on its money. Lenz will speak to Darland about this.

The Board then returned to the subject of finding new members. John Lenz reported that he will try to revamp and revise a brochure about the BRS written by Don Jackanicz. The old brochure lists Jackanicz's address, and Jackanicz does not

wish this to continue.

Continuing on the same subject, Peter Stone suggested reviving the position of Vice President for Information. Steve Reinhardt emphasized that members needed to get something for their money. Thom Weidlich remarked that it is unclear to which address people should direct inquiries about the BRS (John Lenz conceded that this quite ad hoc right now). Trevor Banks suggested that the newsletter should be less technical, and Tim Madigan agreed.

Tim Madigan asked how many members of *Russell-1* (the listserv for people interested in Russell) are members of the BRS. Ken Blackwell put the figure at about 15 percent, which still constitutes a significant portion of the BRS's membership.

Steve Reinhardt inquired if members were getting the program of the Annual Meeting in advance. John Lenz said that they were. Alan Schwerin noted the difficulties in attracting people; apparently, he posted notices about the meeting at nine different international electronic sites with a call for papers, with little apparent results.

The Board then moved on to reports from committees. Peter Stone noted that the Awards Committee had given the 1999 Society Award to Dr. Henry Morgentaler, and that the Book Awards Committee had given the 1999 Book Award to Gregory Landini. Alan Schwerin hopes to use the APA as a means to promote Russell as a scholar, but unfortunately the last BRS session at the APA was poorly attended, with only 12 in attendance (the Leibnitz Society drew 60-70). For the next meeting, Schwerin hopes to have a full panel of papers and maybe even an "author meets his critics" session (They are usually well-attended). Ken Blackwell indicated that the BRS should continue to keep *Russell-1* apprised of its awards, APA sessions, etc.

The Board then held elections for Board and Society Officers. The following officers were each unanimously elected:

President -- Alan Schwerin (nominated by Madigan, seconded by Eisler)  
Vice President -- Jan Loeb Eisler (nominated by Madigan, seconded by Weidlich)  
Treasurer -- Dennis Darland (nominated by Schwerin, seconded by Eisler)  
Secretary -- Peter Stone (nominated by Weidlich, seconded by Perkins)  
Chairman -- Ken Blackwell (nominated by Schwerin, seconded by Eisler)

The Board then took up the question of where to hold the next meeting. Ken Blackwell indicated that the meeting could take place at McMaster University, where the meeting has not been held in a number of years. Tim Madigan raised

the possibility of a joint meeting with the Center for Inquiry and the Canadian Humanist Association, as the Society did in 1994 and 1997. The Center for Inquiry et. al. will have their annual meeting in Los Angeles in May, 2000. The Society has not been on the West Coast since 1993. Thom Weidlich raised the possibility of meeting at Pembroke Lodge in England.

John Lenz suggested that this topic could best be resolved after further consideration of whether the BRS should join the IHEU and/or affiliate with the Center for Inquiry. The Board therefore agreed to postpone the issue until the second part of the meeting.

Peter Stone then proposed a change in the bylaws of the Board. Both the bylaws of the Board and the Society discussed committees. But the rules were ambiguous as to whether both sets of rules referred to the same committees, as well as the duties of these committees. Therefore, Stone suggested amending Article 5 of the Board bylaws, which then read

Committees may be created by the Board, to perform Board functions, and shall follow Board instructions.

To now read

Committees may be created by the Board in accordance with the bylaws of the Society. These committees may perform Board functions by making or implementing the Society's policies, and will follow Board instructions. Functions delegated to a committee may be withdrawn by the Board at any time.

After a brief discussion, Ken Blackwell moved to amend the bylaws in this manner. David Rodier seconded. The Board approved the change unanimously.

The Board then took up the question (postponed from last year's meeting) as to whether the BRS should affiliate with the Center for Inquiry. Don Jackanicz does not wish to continue to do the work to maintain the BRS's incorporation in Illinois. The Society's alternatives are to hire an agent to maintain the Illinois incorporation, or to reincorporate as a new nonprofit in New York based at the Center. Hiring an agent would cost the BRS about \$150 a year; it would also have to provide some information about the BRS's activities. Affiliating with the Center for Inquiry would (according to Jan Eisler and other backers of the proposal) provide a permanent address, a permanent repository, membership and bookkeeping related services, and more. The Center has a full-time librarian to handle books and stand in as the person on the spot to handle inquiries about the BRS. It would also mean more exposure, particularly in humanist circles, and a possible relationship with Prometheus Press. Ray Perkins asked if it would solve the problem of where to

have the annual meeting each year. Tim Madigan said that the Center might be available for meetings, but Steve Maragides pointed out that it was probably available now.

A long debate ensued on the subject. Opponents of affiliation made the following points: 1) If the arrangement did not work out, then the BRS would have to go through the rigmarole of re-incorporation again, which is more difficult than maintaining an existing corporation; 2) The BRS might lose autonomy, and possibly its identity, by affiliation with a large and highly-organized group; 3) Some members might not like the association, and would leave; 4) With Board member Tim Madigan no longer at the Center, it is unclear who would look out for the Society at the Center; 5) The Society would not be able to act independently by taking stands contrary to those of the Center; 6) It is not obvious what the Center gets out of the arrangement; 7) The BRS would be perceived differently, as people associated the BRS with only one aspect of Russell's life and thought.

Supporters of affiliation responded with the following points: 1) The Center for Inquiry houses many groups, each of which has its own board and "identity"; 2) The Center is anxious to spread inquiry, as its name indicated, and the BRS incorporation would help it with that goal; 3) Association with the Center is perfectly compatible with a multifaceted approach to Russell.

In the end, the Board decided to postpone a decision until the second part of the Board meeting. A straw poll at the end of the discussion indicated 4 Board members for affiliation, 4 against, and 5 undecided.

Jan Eisler brought up the subject of IHEU membership. In the past, there was a misunderstanding that the BRS was invited free into the IHEU. If the BRS wishes to become an associate member of the IHEU, it will cost 20 British pounds a year and require that several forms be filled out. Eisler argued that joining would provide international exposure. Warren Allen Smith moved that the BRS obtain an associate membership, John Lenz seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Eisler will act as a liaison with the IHEU.

Peter Stone read a letter from Ramon Suzara, in which he indicated that he has formed his own group, called "BRS--Philippines". He has formed this organization in response to perceived failings of the "BRS-USA" (meaning the BRS). He argued that the Board should concern itself with real problems in the world, as Russell did, rather than just talking about them. John Lenz pointed out that this subject has come up before, but the Society has always been unsure what it could do beyond discussing such topics at its meetings.

Alan Schwerin asked if this new organization generated any legal issues by using

the BRS's name. John Lenz responded negatively, but Peter Stone suggested that the real harm might come through damage to the BRS's reputation, particularly in the 3rd World.

As far as taking action on various issues, Ken Blackwell indicated that nothing prohibited the BRS from doing so (Thom Weidlich, however, disagreed). In that spirit, Blackwell raised the issue of whether the BRS should take a position on the war in Yugoslavia. Steve Maragides pointed out that the BRS had previously had a large battle over the issue of the Society taking public positions on various issues. Lee Eisler, who was involved in these disputes, had argued that the only appropriate issues would be those on which Russell himself took a clear stance (nuclear disarmament, for example).

Charles Krantz asked if the Russell Peace Foundation had taken a position on the Yugoslav war (No one knew). Peter Stone asked if the BRS had ever taken a position on U.S. military actions (It hadn't). Stone requested that the Board take up the issue again in the second half of its meeting.

Ken Blackwell went over the BRS's various committees, with an eye to keeping them fully staffed. The BRS now has the following committees:

- 1) **Book Awards** (Ray Perkins - chair, Ken Blackwell, Nick Griffin, Russell Wahl, and Keith Green) The Board agreed that this committee was best kept small to maximize the chance that its members can actually read the books eligible for the award.
- 2) **Elections** (Ken Blackwell -- chair) The Board recognizes that Blackwell will ask some individuals to serve on this committee as needed.
- 3) **BRS Awards** (Peter Stone -- chair, Alan Schwerin, Ken Blackwell) Schwerin will replace John Lenz on this committee.
- 4) **Paper Awards** (Alan Schwerin -- chair, John Lenz, Tim Madigan)
- 5) **APA** (Alan Schwerin -- chair, David White) The Board would like to ask John Shosky if he would serve.

In addition, the Board considered whether to create some sort of student outreach committee (mostly targeting college students, but possibly also high school students). Jan Eisler and Tim Madigan will both speak to Derek Araujo about serving on such a committee. In addition, Steven Bayne has suggested the Board create a committee to promote the BRS. Alan Schwerin suggested combining these two proposed committees, and John Lenz suggested that all of these duties might fall under the aegis of a Vice President for Information, if the position is recreated.

The Board ended the discussion without a final resolution.

At the end of the first part of the Board Meeting, Ken Blackwell suggested the BRS consider streamlining its functions in light of its membership problems. Jan Eisler replied that the BRS needs to make an extra effort to recruit membership, possibly through some sort of spokespeople and/or speaking tours. The Board will discuss the issue further at a later date.

The second part of the Board Meeting commenced with the following three items of unresolved business:

- 1) Picking a site for the 2000 Annual Meeting;
- 2) Deciding the question of affiliation with the Center for Inquiry; and
- 3) Considering whether the BRS should take a position on the war in Yugoslavia.

One issue #1, Ken Blackwell announced that the Society had five somewhat viable possibilities on the table -- McMaster University; Rochester, N.Y.; Los Angeles, CA; Pembroke Lodge, UK; or West Long Branch, NJ (i.e., doing the meeting at Monmouth again). Tim Madigan pointed out that the BRS could simply have a session at the upcoming LA humanist meeting without moving the entire Society meeting there. Both Madigan and Eisler will be at the meeting, so there will be people on site to coordinate a BRS presence. They could organize one or two sessions along a "BR as humanist theme." Blackwell added that if at least three directors attend, the BRS could have an additional Board meeting there, providing there is business that needs to be discussed. On a similar note, Alan Schwerin added that the BRS could have a Board meeting at the APA's West Coast meeting if enough directors attended and the need was there. Jan Eisler moved that the BRS at least have a presence (if not an entire annual meeting) at the upcoming humanist meeting in LA. Tom Weidlich seconded. The motion carried unanimously. John Lenz will provide brochures (possibly old ones with a sticker over Don Jackanicz's address) to Madigan and Eisler for the meeting, and Madigan will find speakers for the BRS section. In addition, both Eisler and Madigan would look into finding people on the West Coast who might be willing to help arrange a future BRS meeting out west.

Gerry Wildenberg indicated that the BRS members in Rochester would need some time to investigate the matter before committing to hosting an annual meeting. He will look into the matter. In the meantime, the BRS will hold off on planning a meeting in Rochester for at least a year.

Thom Weidlich and Tim Madigan will investigate a possible meeting at Pembroke Lodge. Again, the BRS will hold off on a meeting there until the two Board members can report back on the matter.

Jan Eisler expressed an interest in knowing where the members were, so that future meeting plans could take this into account. Ken Blackwell indicated that a geographic breakdown of the membership would appear in a forthcoming issue of the *Quarterly*.

Alan Schwerin indicated his willingness to host the meeting at Monmouth University again, provided he could convince the University to support it. He believed that would prove no problem. He had high hopes that he could improve on what was already (in the eyes of most of those assembled) a fine meeting. Stefan moved that the BRS hold its 2000 Annual Meeting at Monmouth, provided that Alan Schwerin provided accurate directions to the university (actually his directions were not bad at all). Thom Weidlich seconded. The Board agreed unanimously with the proposal, the first time that the BRS will hold its annual meeting at the same location in two consecutive years.

The Board agreed that the meeting would take place on June 2-4, 2000. Peter Stone noted, while expressing appreciation to Schwerin for undertaking the huge task of planning two meetings in a row, that the BRS should not give up on either joint meetings with the Center for Inquiry or the idea of a West Coast meeting. Ken Blackwell moved that the Board recognize the desirability of holding the annual meeting on the West Coast in 2001. Stone seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Thom Weidlich expressed satisfaction that plans were in the works for future years, including possible meetings in England, Rochester, and (in a pinch) Hamilton.

With regard to issue #2, various people once again raised concerns about affiliation with the Center for Inquiry (identification with militant humanism, lack of information, etc.), as well as various defenses of the idea (not all of the groups at the Center are militantly humanist). Stefan Anderson moved that the BRS obtain a registered agent for one year while looking into more information about the matter of affiliation. Tim Madigan seconded. Peter Stone pointed out that much of the devil here was not in the details, but in broader concerns (about independence, image, autonomy, etc.) that further information would probably not resolve. The Board passed the motion 8-2, with one abstention. Stone then moved that Tim Madigan, who will visit the Center shortly, be provided with questions from the Board for which he could obtain answers, so that the matter could be resolved. Andersson seconded and the motion passed 10-0, with one abstention.

On issue #3, the Board discussed the matter very briefly. Charles Krantz expressed concern that perhaps the timing was wrong for a position on the Yugoslav war. Laurie Thomas regretted that people she knew from the American-Yugoslav Friendship Committee could not attend. She also discussed some of the factors involved that would point in favor of taking a position. Gerry Wildenberg



questioned whether the BRS should ever take a position on political issues. Steve Reinhardt suggested that in the future the BRS designate an hour or two for general "bull sessions" on issues of the day. He also suggested that the *Quarterly* would make an excellent vehicle for such discussions. In the end, the Board took no action on this matter.

**MINUTES OF THE 1999 BRS ANNUAL MEETING  
SUBMITTED BY  
PETER STONE  
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER**

The Bertrand Russell Society held its annual meeting at Monmouth University, West Long Beach, New Jersey, on June 4-6, 1999. John Lenz and Alan Schwerin presided. Peter Stone took notes. BRS members present were Bob Ackerman, Stefan Andersson, Trevor Banks, Mary Bayne, Steven Bayne, Ken Blackwell, Russell Dale, Jan Loeb Eisler, David Goldman, Keith Green, Jose Idler, Charles Krantz, John R. Lenz, Timothy Madigan, Steve Maragides, Mary Martin, Gary Ostertag, Ray Perkins, Stephen J. Reinhardt, Henrique Ribeiro, Cara Rice, David Rodier, Alan Schwerin, John Shosky, Warren Allen Smith, Peter Stone, Laurie Thomas, Chad Trainer, Thom Weidlich, David White, Gerry Wildenberg, and Ruile Ye. Non-members present were William Cornwall, Thomas Drucker, Burdett Gardner, Terri Gillis, Bonnie Gold, Carl Koreen, Jill LeBihon, Chris Lubbers, Guy Oakes, Karen Perkins, Samantha Pogorelsky, Helen Schwerin and Santiago Zorzopulos.

On Friday night, President John Lenz welcomed everyone present, and complimented Steve Reinhardt for remaining the only member to have attended every meeting. Lenz then pointed out that the conference had attendees from many exotic places, including Portugal, Venezuela, England, Canada, Illinois, New Jersey, and Rochester, New York (which provided about ten percent of the meeting attendees). He also urged members to make sure they renewed (and paid for their meeting registration and accommodations), thanked the BRS for the years he spent as an officer, and acknowledged the hard work of the other officers (especially Ken Blackwell, who has been serving as temporary membership supervisor). Finally, he pointed out that the Society had been unable to procure Red Hackle for the meeting, and so members would have to make due with "honorary" Red Hackle.

Chairman Ken Blackwell also welcomed meeting attendees, and urged them to attend the two-part Board meeting to be held that evening and later on in the weekend. Alan Schwerin concluded the welcoming remarks by expressing his pleasure that so many people had attended. Some, like Chandrakala Padia (from the BRS's chapter in India) were hoping to attend but could not, yet the turnout

was quite good, and others (including a contingent from American University to rival Rochester's large delegation) would be arriving the following day. The number of attendees had made for a tight program, and Schwerin reminded everyone that they would have to keep closely to the schedule in order for every speaker to have a chance.

Ray Perkins, Chairman of the BRS Book Award Committee, presented the 1999 Annual Book Award in absentia to Gregory Landini for his book *Russell's Hidden Substitution Theory* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1998). Peter Stone, Chairman of the BRS Award Committee, presented the 1999 Annual Society Award in absentia to Dr. Henry Morgentaler, and will hopefully be able to present the award in person to Morgentaler when Stone visits Toronto next week.

Jan Eisler told the meeting that BRS Honorary Member Antony Flew had recently visited Florida. Eisler hosted Flew there, and a great many people had the chance for stimulating interaction with the famous philosopher. Steve Reinhardt mentioned that Random House's recently issued list of the 100 greatest nonfiction books published in English in the 20th century included Russell and Whitehead's *Principia Mathematica*. Two or three weeks earlier, the *New Yorker* ran a light and entertaining piece on this fact. The article was later photocopied and distributed to all interested parties.

The BRS Board of Directors then held the first part of its Annual Meeting for the remainder of the evening (see notes above).

Stefan Andersson began the program Saturday morning with the paper "Is Russell a Mystic?". Jose Idler then gave a paper entitled "The Human Project in Bertrand Russell" (This paper won the 1999 Prize for a paper by a graduate student). John Lenz chaired this session. Peter Stone chaired the next session which contained a presentation by John Shosky on A.J. Ayer entitled "Hamlet's Horatio" and a paper by Ray Perkins called "Russell's Preventive War Phase." During his presentation Shosky invited all BRS members to attend a conference on Russell and Wittgenstein to be held at American University on March 25-26, 2000. He thanked David Rodier for helping to make this conference possible.

After lunch, the program continued with a session chaired by Alan Schwerin. The two papers in this session were by David Rodier ("Russell's Reading of Plato's Theaetetus") and Tim Madigan ("Russell's Evasion of Evolution"). The next session, chaired by Ken Blackwell, featured Keith Green's "It Means 'All Ravens are Black': Russell Against Ordinary Language Philosophy" and Henrique Ribero's "The Present Relevance of Bertrand Russell's Criticism of Logical Positivism."

After some free time, the BRS held its Red Hackle Hour (sans Red Hackle) and banquet. Entertainment at the banquet was provided by Trevor Banks and his talk "The Lord of Laughter: Russell's Triumph Over Solitude and Solemnity."

On Sunday morning, the program continued with Steven Bayne's paper, "The Problem of Asserted vs. Unasserted Propositions for 'General Philosophy' and Alan Schwerin's "Russell on Vagueness." Keith Green chaired the session. In the course of his talk, Schwerin indicated that he had joined the three Poles and three Texans who had read (or at least, looked at every page of) *Principia Mathematica*. He is looking for references to "vagueness" in *Principia*, and has not found any. He will give a bounty of ten dollars to the first person who can find such a reference (Ray Perkins won: the reference is on page 12). Ken Blackwell then doubled the bounty, offering a like amount for every joke found within the book (Gerry Wilderberg suggested that one likely joke would be any sentence starting with "The reader who has followed me up to this point...").

There followed three more sessions, designed to accommodate the large number of papers without requiring double sessions. First, Ken Blackwell spoke on "New Works in Russell Studies." Then Russell Dale discussed "Bertrand Russell and the Theory of Meaning," and Samantha Pogorelsky talked about "Reflections on the Self." The program continued with Santiago Zorzopulos speaking on "Russell and Wittgenstein" and Chris Lubbers presentation "On Russell's Gray's Elegy Argument in 'On Denoting.'" This final session ended with Gary Ostertag's "Russell and the Anxiety of Influence: The Case of E.E. Constance Jones." Stefan Andersson chaired the first session, while Alan Schwerin chaired the next two.

There followed the Society's Business Meeting, which blended into the continuation of the meeting of the Board of Directors (see above). The meeting ended with a delicious barbecue at the home of Alan and Helen Schwerin.

**BERTRAND RUSSELL SOCIETY  
TREASURER'S REPORT  
CASH FLOW REPORT  
JANUARY 1, 2000-MARCH 31, 2000  
SUBMITTED BY DENNIS DARLAND**

BALANCE ON DECEMBER 31, 1999	\$5,994.04
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INFLOWS

Contributions, BRS:

110.00

Totals	110.00	
Dues:		
New Members	190.00	
Renewals	1,729.00	
Total Dues	1,919.00	
Library Inc	24.40	
Total Inflows		2,053.40
<b>OUTFLOWS</b>		
Bank Charges	3.18	
Newsletter	24.77	
Russell Sub	1,886.00	
Total Outflows		1,913.95
Overall Total		139.45
BALANCE ON MARCH 31, 2000		6,133.49

**BOOK REVIEW:**  
**ANTONY FLEW'S *HOW TO THINK STRAIGHT***  
**BY**  
**SANTIAGO ZORZOPULOS**  
**AMERICAN UNIVERSITY**

"Many people would sooner die than think. In fact they do" Bertrand Russell

**Antony Flew, *How to Think Straight*, Prometheus Press, 1998.** Much has changed in the last 100 years. The world has modernized a great deal. Most people in industrialized nations now enjoy high standards of living and free education. The progressive democratization of the world has created a relatively stable political structure, both here and in other nations. Gone are the days in some places when physical force is used as the primary means of persuasion. The medieval monarch's swords have given way to the power of the written and spoken word.

Despite all of these liberalizing changes, many people today are unequipped to deal

with the kind of mental warfare which is used to establish social goals or policies. A host of blunt intellectual weapons have found their way into the arsenals of various demagogues, political figures, and businessmen. Improper argumentation is so prevalent in social life that even some philosophers have given up trying to change it, proclaiming that there is no such thing as truth, much as the Sophists did in ancient Athens. At least, they say, not the kind of truth that philosophers typically seek, a truth that is trans-social and isn't used simply as a political weapon. In this bleak situation, where various schools of skeptical philosophy, such as Deconstructionism or Structuralism, seem to be entrenched, enters a real McCoy philosopher, Antony Flew, with his newly revised book *How to Think Straight*, the successor to *Thinking Straight* (in the UK the title was *Thinking About Thinking*).

Flew has made a successful career in philosophy by asking for a little common sense in philosophy. He attempts to provide a book of basic inductive logic, simple enough for any adult reader to understand, which shows us how to evaluate arguments.

The book is neatly divided into eight chapters, with each chapter progressively building on the concepts introduced in the preceding one. Along with this layout, the various paragraphs have been numbered for easy reference. With his characteristic clarity, Flew brings to life the concepts of validity in arguments and truth of propositions.

As a textbook, *How to Think Straight* works well. Without going into the more difficult concepts of propositional logic, Flew presents the basic elements of logical arguments. He uses entertaining examples and current references. In an example which describes the concept of logically necessary conditions, he writes "Many of us, however, must have known marriages of which it would have been fair, though unseemly, to comment 'Well, I suppose marriage is a logically necessary precondition of divorce.'"

Flew analyzes evasion, falsification, motives, grounds of evidence, proper understanding of statistics, and a host of fallacies. He provides a much-needed grounding for any student of philosophy, or indeed anyone who wishes to be properly equipped mentally. The themes are often driven home by supporting quotations or analysis of philosophers, poets, politicians, scientists, and others. Flew provides a strenuous, successful mental workout.

While many of Flew's examples are political in nature, one ought not to be turned off this book for that reason. What Flew has done is provide the common public ground from which debates can take place. From then on, the truth of a proposition and the validity of the argument will be our guides. As Socrates said,

"We must follow the argument wherever it leads."

## MEMBERSHIP PROFILES

**Yves Fournier**

**Address:** 100 Rowena Drive, #620, Toronto, Ontario,  
Canada M3A 1P9

**First Book of Russell's I Read:**

*Why I Am Not a Christian*

**Last Book of Russell's I Read:**

*A History of Western Philosophy*

**Favorite Russell Quotation:**

"The good life is one inspired by love and  
guided by knowledge."

**Reason(s) for Joining BRS:**

1) To become more aware of the world of  
philosophy, and, 2) To participate in the real  
world of philosophy.

**Recent Applications of Russell's Views to Your Own Life:**

1) Broader, more critical perspective on  
Christianity, and, 2) Learning more science and  
modern logic

**THE BERTRAND RUSSELL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP PROFILE QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Please fill out the following questionnaire and return it to:**

John Shosky  
Editor, *BRS Quarterly*  
1806 Rollins Drive  
Alexandria, Virginia 22307

**NAME:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**First book of Russell's I read:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Last book of Russell's I read:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Favorite Russell Quotation:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Reason(s) for Joining BRS:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Recent Applications of Russell's Views to Your Own Life:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

# THE BERTRAND RUSSELL SOCIETY

PO Box 434  
Wilder, Vermont 05088-0434

The Bertrand Russell Society was founded in 1974 to foster a better understanding of Russell's work and to promote ideas and causes he thought important. The Society's motto is Russell's statement, "The good life is one inspired by love and guided by knowledge."

The Bertrand Russell Society Quarterly is published in February, May, August, and November. Letters and manuscripts should be addressed to:

John Shosky  
BRS  
1806 Rollins Drive  
Alexandria, Virginia 22307

## OFFICERS OF THE BERTRAND RUSSELL SOCIETY

Chair	Kenneth Blackwell
President	Alan Schwerin
Vice President	Jan Loeb Eisler
Secretary	Peter Stone
Treasurer	Dennis Darland

## THE BERTRAND RUSSELL SOCIETY ON THE NET

### *The Bertrand Russell Society Home Page*

<http://users.drew.edu/~jlenz/brs.html>

### *The Bertrand Russell Society Quarterly*

<http://users.drew.edu/~jlenz/qtly.html>

### *The Bertrand Russell Society Annual Book Award*

<http://users.drew.edu/~jlenz/bkaward.html>

### *The Russell Archives' home page is at:*

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/russdocs/russell.html>