

RUSSELL SOCIETY NEWS  
No. 23  
August 1979

- (1) Last call for dues (43). 1979 Annual Meeting (3,4,58,59,60). BBC-TV program on BR (2). Historian wins BRS Scholarship (8). New Treasurer wanted (11). Gödel upsets the applecart (17). Don Quixote paradox (44). Time to vote (51a, 62). Index (61). An asterisk in the left column indicates a request.

COMING EVENTS

- (2) BBC-TV program on BR. BOB DAVIS received this letter, dated June 29, 1979, from BBC-TV Producer Christopher La Fontaine:

Thank you very much for your letter of May 24th referring to our projected programme on the life of Bertrand Russell and offering to help.

This is most kind of you and I certainly would like to take up your kind offer when we have got the project finalised. As you know, we have made a preliminary film interview with Dora Russell which went extremely well and now it's a question of finding some television station in the US or some other country who will be prepared to share the production costs. As we are considering a dramatised documentary, it's likely to be fairly expensive, but we hope to raise the necessary money as this is a project well worth doing, and I am certain it would be well received.

As soon as we make any progress I shall certainly let you know. Thank you once again for your interest in our programme.

ANNUAL MEETING (1979)

- (3) The 6th Annual Meeting of the BRS was held in New York City, at the Hotel Tudor, June 1-3, 1979 (Friday evening to Sunday noon).  
For the gist of what happened, see the Agenda (4), the Minutes of the Members' Meeting (58), and the Minutes of the Directors' Meeting (59), and the abstract of Harry Ruja's paper (60).  
We taped all of the talks, and most of the discussions that followed. The tapes are (or soon will be) in the BRS Library; their sound is not of professional quality, but quite audible. The papers presented at the meeting will also be going to the BRS Library, with one exception: Albert Ellis didn't have a paper; he spoke (very fluently) from notes.  
These officers were re-elected for one-year terms starting 1/1/80: Chairman, Peter Cranford; President, Bob Davis; Vice-President, Warren Smith; Secretary, Don Jackanicz. The present Treasurer, Steve Reinhardt, was not re-elected at his own request. The post is open starting 1/1/80 (or sooner), and a volunteer is wanted. See (11).  
19 BRS members attended one or more sessions: LEONARD CARLSON, JACK COWLES, BOB DAVIS, LESTER DENONN, LEE EISLER, SEYMOUR GENSER, DAVID GOLDMAN\*, STEPHEN HAMBY, DAVID HART, ROBERT HOMA, DON JACKANICZ, KEN KORBIN, JOHN LENZ, STEVE MARAGIDES, JACK PITT, STEVE REINHARDT, HARRY RUJA, WARREN SMITH, IRA STRAUS. (\*became a member at the Meeting.)  
11 non-member guests also attended one or more sessions: Jim Adams, Bernard Auffram, Mrs. Lester Denonn, Diane Hart, Ralph Kean, Norman Roscoe, Rose Ruja, Arline Rubin, Nancy Spataro, P. Tido, Judy Wald.

- (4) Agenda:

FRIDAY, 1 JUNE 1979

6 p.m. Cocktails and Informal Dinner  
Tudor Hotel's Three Lions Pub and Dining Room

8 p.m. Welcome and Introduction  
Cameo Room (downstairs)

8:15 p.m. "Bertrand Russell," NBC Film (30 min.)

8:45 p.m. "Bertrand Russell on Israel"  
DR. HARRY RUJA  
Dept. of Philosophy, San Diego State University

10:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting

## SATURDAY, 2 JUNE 1979

- 9:30 a.m. Opening Remarks  
ROBERT DAVIS, President of Bertrand Russell Society
- 9:45 a.m. "Life and Times of Bertrand Russell," BBC Film (40 min.)
- 10:30 a.m. "Bertrand Russell's Response to Marx"  
DR. JACK PITT  
Dept. of Philosophy, California State University at Fresno
- 11:30 a.m. General Discussion
- 12:00 noon Lunch
- 2:00 p.m. "Bertrand Russell Discusses the Role of the Individual," film (15 min.)
- 2:20 p.m. "Bertie and Litigation From Birth Until Death: A Lawyer's Commentary"  
LESTER E. DENONN
- 3:00 p.m. Discussion Followed By Business Meeting
- 5:00 p.m. Cocktails
- 7:00 p.m. Dinner

## SUNDAY, 3 JUNE 1979

- 9:00 a.m. "Psychotherapy and Bertrand Russell"  
DR. ALBERT ELLIS, Executive Director  
Institute For Rational Living
- 10:30 a.m. "Bertrand Russell Discusses Philosophy," film (15 min.)  
"Bertrand Russell Discusses Happiness," film (15 min.)

(5) Item deleted.

## ANNUAL MEETING (1978)

(6) 1978. Two of the papers presented at the 1978 meeting, at McMaster University, are included in "Russell 29-32:1978": Carl Spadoni's "Philosophy in Russell's Letters to Alys", and Gladys Leithauser's "A Non-Supernatural Faust."

## ANNUAL MEETING (1980)

(7) Chicago next? Since we have had several annual meetings on the East Coast and one on the West Coast, it's time we had a meeting between the 2 Coasts, in a city where there are a fair number of members. That points to Chicago. There are reasons besides geography favoring Chicago: BR taught at Chicago; some of his students, now distinguished in their own right, might give talks. But not everything favors Chicago. Some members feel strongly that we should avoid Chicago because Illinois has not passed the Equal Rights Amendment.

If you think you might attend, please vote for the city you prefer, using the ballot, Part 2 (66). As to time of the meeting, it will be a Friday evening to Sunday noon weekend. Please indicate the month you prefer. May or June seem to be the preferred months. If any specific weekend is impossible for you, mention it on the ballot.

## RECENT EVENTS

(8) Historian wins BRS Scholarship. The first BRS Traveling Scholarship has been awarded to Kirk Willis, doctoral candidate in history at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. The award pays up to \$500 for travel for purposes of research for a dissertation. Mr. Willis plans to travel to the Russell Archives, at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, to do research for his dissertation, "Bertrand Russell: An Intellectual Biography, 1972-1918."

The BRS intends to award the Traveling Scholarship annually. As this first award indicates, applicants need not be in the field of philosophy, but may be in any of the many other fields that also interested BR.

During the coming academic year, while Jack Pitt is in Europe on a sabbatical, George Sessions will serve as Chairperson of the Traveling Scholarship Committee. His address: Philosophy Dept., Sierra College, Rocklin, CA95677.

The present dues schedule is: regular member \$15, couple \$20, student \$5. The proposed new schedule, to take effect October 1, 1979, would be: regular member \$20, couple \$25, student \$5.

If 200 members pay an additional \$5 per year, it will raise an additional \$1000.

\* Directors, please vote on this, using Part 4 of the ballot, last page of this newsletter.

- (53) "Chairperson". In RSN22-37, we reprinted an item from the Washington Post headed "'Chairperson' out of order, Oxford dictionary rules." We are not bound, of course by what the Oxford dictionary decides, but it does indicate the dissatisfaction that many feel with "Chairperson". One can be for women's lib without being for "Chairperson". A man or a woman can be a "Chairman". A woman can also be a "Chairwoman".

We would like to see the ERS drop the use of "Chairperson". What does the majority wish? Please us the ballot \* (Part 5), last page of this newsletter.

#### "RUSSEL SOCIETY NEWS" MATTERS

- (54) Blank Page 4? Several members have advised us that Page 4 in their last newsletter (RSN22) was blank. If yours was blank, please let us know and we'll send you a replacement for the blank page.

#### COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

- (55) Science for the People has issued an 8-page pamphlet headlined "3 MILE ISLAND NUCLEAR DISASTER -- what the public is not being told -- what antinuke organizers need to know."  
It is carefully written, with 41 footnotes citing sources of statements. It describes the TMI affair, and then deals with these topics: Low Level Radiation/Core Meltdown -- the Ultimate Disaster/Plutonium -- the Ultimate Poison/Radioactive Waste -- No Place to Put It/Cheap Power? -- Forget it!/Who Benefits from Nukes?/Are We Hooked?/What Are the Alternatives?/What Needs to be Done/How To Do It.  
It closes with a "Resource List" of periodicals, films, books and pamphlets, and 31 antinuclear organizations, plus this: "For an updated list of organizations, write to the Nuclear Information and Resource Service, Groundswell Monthly Newsletter, 1536 16th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036."  
For a copy of the pamphlet, send 25¢ to Science for the People, 897 Main Street, Cambridge, MA 02139.
- (56) For Non-Believers. The First International Exhibition of Literature for Non-Believers will be held at Stockholm University, Sweden, September 1-31, 1979. Write to: Literature Exhibition, Box 170, S-147 00 Tumba, Sweden.
- (57) CAPP. The Committee Against Physical Prejudice is "Fighting Bigotry Based On Personal Appearance." They say, for instance, that "Television has increasingly made overweight and various types of unattractive people either the butt of jokes or the victims of insult" and they want to do something about it. Their address: PO Box 18118, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118.

#### ANNUAL MEETING(1979)(cont.)

- (58) Minutes of the Members' Meeting:

The sixth annual meeting of the Bertrand Russell Society, Inc. was held Friday, June 1 through Sunday, June 3, 1979 at the Hotel Tudor, 104 E. 42nd St., New York, NY 10017. Except where noted, the events described below took place in the Hotel's Cameo Room.

##### Friday, June 1

An informal dinner at the Hotel's Three Lions Pub preceded the calling to order of the first session at 8:30 p.m. by President Bob Davis. Following his welcome, the film Bertrand Russell was presented. Next, Harry Ruja delivered a paper entitled "Bertrand Russell on Israel" which primarily concerned Russell's 1970 condemnation of that nation as an aggressor. While Russell was defended against charges of anti-Semitism, it

was claimed that he had seriously misinterpreted recent Middle Eastern history and had thereby reached an incorrect conclusion regarding Israel's place within the international community. Discussion followed after which the session was adjourned at 10:35 p.m. The Board of Directors then met in separate session.

Saturday, June 2

The second session was called to order by Bob Davis at 10:00 a.m. A film, The Life and Times of Bertrand Russell, was presented after which Jack Pitt addressed those assembled on "Bertrand Russell's Response to Marx." Using German Social Democracy as his principal source, he contrasted Marx and Russell's views on religion and human labor concluding that areas of striking agreement and disagreement exist between the two writers. Discussion followed, and the session was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Reconvening at 2:10 p.m., the session continued with the film Bertrand Russell Discusses the Role of the Individual. Lester E. Denonn then presented "Bertie and Litigation from Birth until Death: A Lawyer's Commentary." Included were topics such as the custody case over the child Bertrand, his four marriages and three divorces, his World War I activities, the 1940 City College Case, and posthumous legal disputes. A discussion period followed.

Bob Davis then began the business meeting by examining the question of the future disposition of Lester E. Denonn's extensive collection of Russelliana valued in excess of \$100,000. In the ensuing discussion it was agreed that this rich library would best be kept whole for research purposes and that foundations should be approached toward that end. Next, Jack Pitt, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, reported on the award of the first BRS Traveling Scholarship to Kirk Willis, a history graduate student at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Mr. Willis is preparing a doctoral dissertation entitled "Bertrand Russell: An Intellectual Biography, 1872-1918" and was chosen from a field of four qualified applicants. In his report Jack explained the selection process and distributed copies of the poster used to announce the Scholarship. As Secretary, Don Jackanicz stated that copies of the minutes of the 1978 annual meeting and Board of Directors meeting were available for inspection; as Chairman of the Library Committee, he also discussed Library matters with reference to a ten page handout describing materials available for sale and on a lending and rental basis.

Treasurer Steve Reinhardt then reported the BRS remains solvent. Somewhat over \$1000 is in the Treasury. Members were reminded to consult issues of Russell Society News (RSN) for more complete financial statements. It was also stated that dues alone do not provide for the BRS's needs--contributions have always been and will likely remain necessary. Lee Eisler, Chairman of the Information and Membership Committee, began his report by recommending an increase in membership dues because of inflationary pressures. An informal show of hands indicated general agreement. As of May 1, 1979, he stated, current BRS membership totaled 252; in addition, 177 persons are ex-members. The problems of member recruiting, retention, and drop-outs were reviewed. This year, it was explained, an average of \$12 in advertising expense was required to obtain a new member. Lee concluded his report by commenting on the RSN of which he is the editor: by reducing its type size and using non-profit organization postal rates for domestic mailing, considerable savings have been realized; all members are invited to contribute materials to the RSN be they essays, reviews, notices, or letters. In the absence of Ed Hopkins, Chairman of the Philosophy Committee, Lee briefly reported that the December 1979 BRS Symposium at the American Philosophical Association meeting will be held as scheduled and that papers are now being selected.

Following these Committee reports, Lee Eisler proposed that the term "Chairperson" be avoided in all BRS activities. He opined that "Chairman" is appropriate for persons of either sex and that the other term was clumsy and unnecessary. An alternative term, "Co-ordinator", was put forth. Although no definite vote on this matter was taken, it was informally agreed that the RSN will no longer use "Chairperson".

Bob Davis then opened discussion on a variety of topics. He noted that outside fundraising has thus far been unsuccessful although he is investigating the possibilities. Three Committees--Awards, Applied Philosophy, and Human Rights--have been inactive as have the local chapters such as that in Chicago. It was generally agreed that local chapters are at least presently unworkable due to the spirit of the times which does not allow for easily co-ordinated, regular meetings. The Science Committee and the Philosophy in the Schools Committee are functioning, Bob noted, but no one was present to offer reports on them. A site for the 1980 annual meeting has not been chosen. However, Bob suggested that Chicago be considered as previous meetings have been held on the East and West Coasts as well as at the Russell Archives. No one has signed up for the 1979 BRS-sponsored Britain tour. Outlining the manner by which such tours are organized, Bob emphasized the complexity involved when a special tour is made to order as opposed to when a group such as the BRS reaches an agreement, as was done in this case, to join a regularly scheduled tour with general appeal. It was suggested that a future annual meeting might be held in Britain in which event a more Russell-related tour might be arranged. Bob next read an open letter signed by Joan Baez and other members of the Humanist International Human Rights Committee which appeared in the May 30, 1979 edition of the Washington Post and other newspapers; the letter lamented the present domestic situation in Viet Nam and urged that nation's leaders to pursue just and humane policies toward dissenters and minorities. After a group discussion of what Russell's attitude toward recent Viet Nam events might have been, the session was adjourned at 4:40 p.m. Some of those in attendance retired to the Hotel's Three Lions Pub for cocktails as plans for the traditional Red Hackle Hour could not be met owing to a scarcity of that Scotch. At the suggestion of David S. Goldman, the formal annual meeting dinner was held at the Saito Restaurant, 305 E. 45th St., a few blocks north of the Hotel.

Sunday, June 3

After Bob Davis called the final session to order at 9:10 a.m., Albert Ellis spoke on "Psychotherapy and Bertrand Russell." Defining psychotherapy as "the science and art of how humans disturb themselves and what they can do about it," he referred to a variety of Russell's works to illustrate that the rational and the irrational (or the non-rational) must be balanced to foster a long-range hedonism. Following a lively discussion period, two films, Bertrand Russell Discusses Philosophy and Bertrand Russell Discusses Happiness, were presented. At 11:15 a.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Donald W. Jackanicz*

Donald W. Jackanicz  
Secretary

July 1, 1979

(59) Minutes of the Directors' Meeting:

The Board of Directors of the Bertrand Russell Society, Inc. met in one session on Friday, June 1, 1979 in the Cameo Room of the Hotel Tudor, 104 E. 42nd St., New York, NY 10017. The following eight Board members were present: Bob Davis, Lester E. Denonn, Lee Eisler, Don Jackanicz, Jack Pitt, Steve Reinhardt, Harry Ruja, and Warren Smith. The following seven Board members were not present: Kenneth Blackwell, Peter G. Cranford, Ed Hopkins, Dan McDonald, Joe Neilands, Gary Slezak, and Katharine Tait.

In the absence of Board Chairman Peter G. Cranford, the meeting was called to order by Bob Davis at 10:40 p.m. The first order of business was the election of officers for the term of one year to begin January 1, 1980. Each of the following persons was unanimously elected:

--Chairman of the Board of Directors-----Peter G. Cranford  
(Nominated by Lee Eisler, seconded by Lester E. Denonn)  
--Secretary of the Board of Directors-----Don Jackanicz  
(Jack Pitt, Lee Eisler)  
--President-----Bob Davis  
(Lee Eisler, Warren Smith)  
--Vice President-----Warren Smith  
(Bob Davis, Steve Reinhardt)  
--Secretary-----Don Jackanicz  
(Jack Pitt, Warren Smith)

The incumbent Treasurer, Steve Reinhardt, announced his desire to step down from that post at the conclusion of his present term. No persons were nominated for Treasurer, and it was agreed that nominees would be solicited via Russell Society News (RSN). While he had the floor, Steve stated he will send copies of the records to Peter G. Cranford who will arrange for an independent audit of BRS finances.

The meeting then turned its attention to the BRS Bylaws and whether any reform of them might be necessary. Lee Eisler proposed (1.) that the Bylaws be amended to mention specifically that the Chairman of the Board of Directors is an officer of the BRS; (2.) that the Bylaws be amended to make the Chairman of the Board of Directors responsible for preparing the agenda for Board meetings and the President responsible for preparing the agenda for the annual general meetings; and (3.) that Article VI, Section 4 of the Bylaws be amended so as to omit "other members" in favor of "member" or to have "including oneself" follow "other members" in the sentence presently beginning "Any member is free to submit the nomination of any other members. . . ." To these proposals Jack Pitt expressed his disagreement by stating that changes in the Bylaws should be considered for only the most compelling reasons. Discussion of this constitutional issue briefly went on, however, it was pointed out that Article X specifies Bylaw amendments require a majority vote of the Society, not of the Board. Therefore, the proposed amendments were put aside with the understanding that future discussion of them and possible others may be forthcoming in the RSN.

Next, the topic of Committees was discussed especially in relation to the problems of those which are inactive. Lee Eisler expressed his regret that certain Committees exist with no head or clearly defined work. Noting that in most cases the work of individuals rather than of Committees has resulted in accomplishments, he suggested that inactive Committees contribute to member dissatisfaction. Bob Davis then recommended that members, especially new members, be located who are willing to give of their time to Committee functions. Don Jackanicz proposed to define a form of subsistence for inactive Committees but did not elaborate on this. In the end it was informally agreed to allow the status quo to continue.

A brief discussion followed concerning the Scholarship Committee with Jack Pitt distributing the résumé of George Sessions who is assisting in that Committee's work.

With no further business at hand, Lester E. Denonn moved that the meeting be adjourned; Jack Pitt seconded the motion which was unanimously carried. The meeting thus closed at 11:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Donald W. Jackanicz*  
Donald W. Jackanicz, Secretary

July 1, 1979

- (60) "Bertrand Russell on Israel". Abstract of the paper by Harry Ruja, read on June 1st, at the 1979 Annual Meeting:

Though in June 1943 Russell had written sympathetically of the Zionist ideal ("In a dangerous and largely hostile world, it is essential for the Jews to have some country which is theirs..."), the reality of the Jewish state failed to arouse his enthusiasm. He was silent when Israel declared its independence in 1948 and remained silent during the turbulent years which followed while Israel fought off its enemies. In June 1967, however, he labelled Israel the aggressor in the Mideast conflict, and in January 1970, just a short time before his death, he renewed the accusation.

Russell's adverse judgment of Israel was the result of a misperception of the facts relating to the Mideast conflict. He disregarded the hostility of the Arab nations to the very existence of the Jewish state; he failed to take into account the offers of peace Israeli leaders made repeatedly; he ignored the fact that Israel's "expansion" was not the product of imperialistic ambitions but of the defeat of her enemies who sought not additional territory but Israel's liquidation; and erroneously he assigned responsibility for the Arab refugees to Israel rather than to the Arab leaders who had urged the Arabs living in "Palestine" in 1947-48 to leave while hostilities were in process.

Jews honored Russell at his death for his vigorous messages in behalf of freedom for Soviet Jews and his moving words of pity and sympathy at the 1953 memorial in London for the martyrs of the Warsaw Ghetto. It is a matter of regret that Russell failed to assess the Mideast conflict accurately and condemned Israel instead of defending her in her search for peaceful self-determination.

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- (61) Introductory (1); BBC-TV program on ER (2). 1979 Annual Meeting, general (3), Agenda (4), Minutes: of Members' Meeting (58); of Directors' Meeting (59). Two 1978 papers in "Russell" (6). 1980 in Chicago? (7). First BRS Traveling Scholarship awarded (8). Chairman Cranford reports (9). Treasurer Reinhardt reports (10). New Treasurer wanted (11). Library Committee report (12a). What's available from the Library (12b). Philosophy-in-High-School Committee (13). Science Committee report (14). New Science Committee Chairperson proposed (15). Universal Human Rights Committee (16). ER for freshman (16A). Gödel upsets the appletart (17). Hampshire's choices (18). Autobiography II reviewed (19). Ruja on "Russell Bibliographies" (20). G. E. Moore thinks back (21). ER in fiction (22). Denonn finds new references to ER (23). ER's prophecies (24). 17 inches (25). "Bertrand Russell on Israel" (26,60). WIN Magazine ad (27). Sutcliffe reviews "Holocaust" (28). Dora on Cadogan & Conway Hall (29). Don Roberts locates sources for "Philosophers' Ring" (30). News about members: Bae (31), Cleavelin (32), Clifford (33), Cranford (34), Dely (35), Lamont (36a,b), Pitt (37), Sutcliffe (34,38,39). New Manchester School (39). About Paul Edwards (40). New Members (41). Address changes (42). Last call for dues (43). Paradoxes: Cleavelin's Don Quixote (44), Doudna (45), Green (46), Griffin (47); also see Gödel (17). Contributors thanked (49). 3 fund-raising volunteers (50). Time to vote (51a); Director-Candidates (51b). Higher dues proposed (52). Proposal to drop "Chairperson" (53). Blank Page 4 in RSN22? (54). Communications received: Science for the People (55), for Non-Believers (56), CAPP (57). 1979 Minutes: of Members' Meeting (58); of Directors' Meeting (59). "Bertrand Russell on Israel" (60). Index (61). Ballot (62).