

Russell Society News  
No. 39  
August 1983

- (1) Highlights: Volunteer needed (32). 1983 Meeting, at McMaster (2,38,39). Using the BRS name (2c). Human Rights Committee request (4). Science Committee request (5). BR Editorial Project (9). BR misrepresented (10). BR on warmongers (11). BR Film Project (14). BRS Doctoral Grant awarded (17). 2 nuclear freeze letters (23). Page's good idea (29). Membership list (43). Index (44). Ballot (45). An asterisk in the left column indicates a request.

1983 MEETING, AT MCMASTER

- (2) This report on McMaster 1983 is in 3 parts. Part 1: the Conference. Part 2: the BRS Annual Meeting. Part 3: the BRS Board Meeting. It all occurred June 24-26.

- (2a) Part 1, the Conference. In all previous BRS meetings the programs — speakers, topics, films — have been arranged by the BRS itself; but in the '83 meeting, the program was arranged by the sponsors of the Conference. The Conference was on BR's early "humanist" writings (1888-1918). Here is the program:

Programme

The first of two conferences sponsored by the Bertrand Russell Editorial Project (McMaster University) and the Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (University of Toronto). Part II will be a conference on Russell's technical writings up to 1922 held in Toronto late in June 1984.		<b>Saturday</b> 9:00-10:00 Department of English and Russell Editorial Project McMaster University	<b>Sunday</b> 9:30-10:00 Coffee
		Andrew Brink McMaster University	
		<i>Bertrand Russell's Conversion of 1901</i>	10:00-11:00 Peter Clarke St. John's College Cambridge University
<b>Friday</b> 12:50	Richard A. Rempel, Coordinator Bertrand Russell Editorial Project	10:00-10:20 Coffee	<i>Bertrand Russell and the Dimensions of Edwardian Liberalism</i>
<b>Welcome</b>		10:30-11:20	11:00-12:00 Thomas C. Kennedy Department of History University of Arkansas
1:00-2:00	S. P. Rosenbaum Department of English University of Toronto	<i>The Evolution of Bertrand Russell's Early Religious Beliefs, 1888-1914</i>	<i>To Nourish Life or Minister to Death: Bertrand Russell and the Twentieth-Century Peace Movement</i>
<i>Bertrand Russell and the Bloomsbury Group</i>		11:30-1:00 Free time for lunch	12:00 Closing remarks and farewell
2:00-2:30	Coffee	1:00-2:00 Nicholas Griffin Department of Philosophy and Russell Editorial Project McMaster University	
2:30-3:30	Gladys G. Leithauser Department of English University of Michigan—Dearborn	<i>Bertrand Russell's Crisis of Faith</i>	
<i>The Romantic Russell and the Legacy of Shelley</i>		2:00-2:30 Coffee	
3:30-4:00	Coffee	2:30-3:30 Harry Ruja Department of Philosophy San Diego State University	
4:00-5:00	Carl Spadoni Bertrand Russell Archives McMaster University	<i>Russell on the Meaning of 'Good'</i>	
<i>Russell and Aesthetics</i>		3:30-4:30 Brian Harrison Corpus Christi College Oxford University	
6:00	Barbecue at the Faculty Club	<i>Bertrand Russell: The False Consciousness of a Feminist</i>	
Free evening; general meeting of the Bertrand Russell Society		7:00 Buffet banquet at Richard Rempel's home	

The large audience, that filled the auditorium in Gilmour Hall, seemed to like what it heard. The applause that followed each talk confirmed that impression.

32 BRS members were there: KEN BLACKWELL, ANDREW BRINK, WHITFIELD & POLLY COBB, JACK COWLES, DENNIS DARLAND, BOB DAVIS, LEE EISLER, PAUL GARWIG, MARY GIBBONS, DAVID GOLDMAN, DAVID HART, DON JACKANICZ, JOHN JACKANICZ, MARVIN KOHL, GLADYS LEITHAUSER, JOHN LENZ, BOB LOMBARDI, STEVE MARAGIDES, JIM MCWILLIAMS, FRANK PAGE, PAUL PFALZNER, STEVE REINHARDT, HARRY RUJA, CARL SPADONI, TOM STANLEY, KATE TAIT, JOHN VAN WISSEN, HERB & BETTY VOGT, ROB WALLACE, CAROLYN WILKINSON.

If that looks like a record number (which it is), let us not puff up with pride too much; that number is not as good as it looks. Some of those BRS members are affiliated with McMaster, or participated in the Conference, and would have been there in any case.

We never have as many members at Annual Meetings as we would like. Attending meetings is never inexpensive, and can be quite expensive for members who have to travel far. All in all we can say that we had a pretty good turnout for the '83 meeting, a little better than average, including some long-time members who came to an Annual Meeting for the first time, and later told us they were very glad they had come.

(2b) Part 2, the BRS Annual Meeting. Here are highlights. More details are provided in the Minutes (38).

- . President Jackanicz voiced the BRS's feelings of great gratitude toward BOB DAVIS for 8 years of notable service as BRS President, 1975-1982. This was followed by great applause.
- . President Jackanicz reported that the BRS had moved from Georgia to Illinois.
- . Treasurer Dennis Darland reported that the present bank balance is \$3364.69.
- . VP/Information Lee Eisler asked members to remember to send him relevant items they come across in their reading, for possible inclusion in the newsletter.
- . President Jackanicz read Jack Ragsdale's letter asking the BRS to endorse a nuclear freeze. (The Board later took action on this. See (23,39))
- . VP/Information Lee Eisler asked that the BRS undertake to gather incidents in BR's life that would lend themselves to a movie on BR. This was approved.

(2c) Part 3, the Board of Directors' Meeting. Here are highlights. More details are in the Minutes (39).

- . The Board appointed (or re-appointed) the following officers: Donald W. Jackanicz, President; Marvin Kohl, Vice-President; Dennis J. Darland, Treasurer; Cherie Ruppe, Secretary; Robert K. Davis, Vice-President/Special Projects; Lee Eisler, Vice-President/Information.
- . The 1984 Annual Meeting will coincide with the 2nd year of the Conference, in June, at the University of Toronto. This Conference will be on BR's technical writings. The BRS will offer a program to provide BRS members with an alternative to the Conference's technical talks.
- . Jack Ragsdale, BRS Assistant Librarian, was named Librarian.
- . Bob Davis, VP/Special Projects, will investigate the possibility of an Annual Meeting in England in 1985.
- . Regarding use of the BRS name by members: BRS members' stationery may be used by members for any purpose, except that they are not to speak on behalf of the BRS unless authorized by the President or Board; members may say, when writing letters, that they are members of the BRS; official BRS stationery is to be used only for official BRS business.
- . A freeze resolution was adopted, to be sent to Presidents Reagan and Andropov (23).

#### REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

(3) President Don Jackanicz reports:

Those of you who attended the Annual Meeting at McMaster University need not be reminded by me of how successful and pleasant it was. The planning done by the Conference's sponsors at McMaster University and the University of Toronto resulted in a very rewarding weekend. I offer congratulations to all those responsible for this memorable occasion.

This would turn into a much longer account, were I to report fully on the actions taken at McMaster; but since they are covered elsewhere in this newsletter, especially in the Minutes (38,39), I will say no more — except to urge all members to try to come to next year's meeting, June 1984 in Toronto.

(3.5) Acting Secretary Steve Maragides' report consists of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting (38) and the Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting (39).

#### REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(4) Human Rights Committee (Alex Dely, Chairman):

(Don Jackanicz recently appointed Alex Chairman of this Committee, which has been inactive for some time. Ed.)

I was shocked recently to get an American Association for the Advancement of Science report detailing how several thousand professionals were illegally detained last year alone in over 30 countries. This is not generally known; Sakharov's plight is one of the few well-known cases.

Early in June I wrote to about 25 human rights organizations. I also wrote to those who had contacted me last year in connection with a human rights packet offer. I suggested we might network, exchange newsletters, and possibly get more BRS members directly involved in heavy duty international politics. The returns are coming in. One kind aims to help individuals, as Amnesty International does. The other kind is more general and aims at influencing Congressional policies towards nations. I hope we can combine them. I'll be glad to compile a packet of information about 40 U.S. groups, from which BRS members can select a group they would like to work with in particular geographical areas.

I would like to call our Committee the "BRS Human Rights and International Development Committee". For about 3 years I have been associated with Volunteers in Technical Assistance (VITA), in Virginia, as well as

## 1983 MEETING (CONTINUED)

## (38) Minutes of the Annual Meeting →

## (39) Minutes of the Board's Meeting ↓

The Annual Meeting of The Bertrand Russell Society, Inc., an Illinois corporation, was convened at 8:10 P.M., June 24, 1983, at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Members present were MARGARET COBB, WHITFIELD COBB, JACK R. COWLES, DENNIS J. DARLAND, ROBERT K. DAVIS, LEE EISLER, PAUL GARNIC, MARY W. GIBSON, DAVID GOLDMAN, DAVID S. HART, DONALD W. JACKANICZ, MARVIN KOHL, CLAYTON LEITHAUSER, JOHN R. LENT, ROBERT LOMBARDI, STEVE MARAGIDES, JAMES E. MCWILLIAMS, FRANK V. PAGE, PAUL M. PALMER, STEPHEN J. REDHARDT, THOMAS J. STANLEY, JOHN VAN WISSEN, ELIZABETH VOGT, HERBERT G. WOOT, BOB WALLACE.

President DON JACKANICZ, presiding, informed the members of what had happened since the 1982 Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, including changing The Bertrand Russell Society from a Georgia corporation to an Illinois corporation, revising the Bylaws (still in process), and planning for the 1983 meeting.

DENNIS DARLAND gave the Treasurer's Report, showing the present balance to be \$3,364.69.

LEE EISLER, Vice-President/Information, asked the members to send items of interest to him, for possible publication in the newsletter.

DON JACKANICZ stated his thanks to BOB DAVIS for eight years of outstanding service as President of the ERS. The statement was followed by resounding applause. LEE EISLER asked that the minutes mention the applause.

DON JACKANICZ read JACK BAGSDALE's letter which asked the ERS to endorse a nuclear freeze. There were arguments for and against the proposal. Arguments against it: it would politicize the ERS; this would endanger the ERS's tax-exempt status; the Ragsdale letter was vague and unclear, not specifying unilateral or bilateral, verifiable or non-verifiable; the small number voting should not presume to speak for the entire ERS; members favoring the freeze should speak as individuals rather than have the ERS take a position on the issue. Arguments for it: whatever other resolutions might be inappropriate for the ERS to endorse, the nuclear freeze resolution was certainly one that ER would have endorsed, and a society bearing his name should endorse it; endorsement would not jeopardize the ERS's tax-exempt status (according to DAVID GOLDMAN), if the ERS educates the public rather than lobbies Congress; the issue of nuclear war is too important to ignore. The members did not vote on the nuclear freeze resolution. (However, at a later Board meeting, a newly worded freeze resolution was approved. See 394)

LEE EISLER moved that the ERS undertake to collect suitable information about ER, with a view to interesting a movie-maker in making a film on ER. Many incidents in ER's life are dramatic, and might provide material that a screen-writer could use in writing a good script, incidents such as the CCNY affair, the Vietnam era peace activities, the going to jail, etc. The plan is to invite all ERS members, through the newsletter, to participate in this project by sending in incidents they think suitable for film treatment. (See 14). The motion carried.

The 1983 Annual Meeting of The Bertrand Russell Society was adjourned.

Submitted July 17, 1983

*Steve Maragides, Jr. c.*  
Steve Maragides, Acting Secretary  
For Cherie Ruppe, Secretary

The Board of Directors of The Bertrand Russell Society, Inc., an Illinois corporation, met at 10:00 A.M. Friday, June 24, 1983, at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Directors present were DENNIS J. DARLAND, ROBERT K. DAVIS, LEE EISLER, DAVID S. HART, DONALD W. JACKANICZ, MARVIN KOHL, STEVE MARAGIDES, and JAMES E. MCWILLIAMS. In the absence of HARRY RUJA, the Board elected DON JACKANICZ as Acting Chairman. In the absence of CHERIE RUPPE, the Board elected STEVE MARAGIDES as Acting Secretary.

The location of the 1984 Annual Meeting was discussed. Part II of a 2-year Conference — jointly sponsored by the Bertrand Russell Editorial Project (at McMaster University) and The Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (at the University of Toronto) — is scheduled for late June 1984 at the University of Toronto. It will be on ER's technical writings. It was thought appropriate that there be a ERS presence at the Conference. Therefore BOB DAVIS moved (and MARVIN KOHL seconded) that the ERS hold its 1984 Annual Meeting in Toronto to coincide with the Conference. The motion carried.

Since ER's technical writings might not be of interest to all ERS members, who are not professional philosophers, it was also decided that the ERS would mount a separate program (including ER films) for that weekend, to provide ERS members with an alternative to the technical talks.

[The 1984 Program Committee will consist of Don Jackanicz, Marvin Kohl and Bob Davis. Ed]

HARRY RUJA recommended that the ERS Doctoral Grant offer be made more widely known through ads in "The Journal of Philosophy" (USA) and "Mind" (UK). The Information Committee will look into this.

DON JACKANICZ advised the Board that the Bertrand Russell Society was now an Illinois corporation (the Georgia corporation having been dissolved) with federal tax-exempt status.

DON JACKANICZ moved that JACK BAGSDALE be named ERS Librarian. LEE EISLER seconded. Jack Ragsdale was named ERS Librarian by acclamation.

BOB DAVIS has, for a long time, been trying to get 3 ER essays published together in an inexpensive edition: "Why I Am Not A Christian", "What I Believe", and "What Is An Agnostic". Bob reports that it now seems likely that Prometheus Press will publish it, though the price may not be as low as Bob would have liked. MARVIN KOHL offered to help with the project.

BOB DAVIS informed the Board the Professor Joseph Rotblat would not be present to accept the 1983 ERS Award because of a foot injury. Bob showed the Board the Award plaque that Professor Rotblat will receive.

DON JACKANICZ expressed the opinion that the general membership of the ERS should be encouraged to nominate candidates for the annual ERS Award, and that the deadline should be December 1st for the Award of the following year.

JACK BAGSDALE's letter to the Board, advocating that the Bertrand Russell Society endorse a nuclear freeze, was read by Don Jackanicz.

The Board of Directors turned to the election of officers. DON JACKANICZ was re-elected President. MARVIN KOHL was elected Vice-President. DENNIS DARLAND was re-elected Treasurer. BOB DAVIS was re-elected Vice-President/Special Projects. LEE EISLER was re-elected Vice-President/Information.

The meeting was recessed until the evening of Friday, June 24, 1983.

The Board of Directors of The Bertrand Russell Society reconvened Friday evening, June 24, 1983. Directors present were JACK R. COWLES, DENNIS J. DARLAND, ROBERT K. DAVIS, LEE EISLER, DAVID S. HART, DONALD W. JACKANICZ, MARVIN KOHL, STEVE MARAGIDES, JAMES E. MCWILLIAMS, and STEPHEN J. REDHARDT.

LEE EISLER moved that members be forbidden to use the ERS name in correspondence with the media or with prominent persons without the permission of the ERS President or Board. The motion failed to carry.

The Board re-elected CHERIE RUPPE Secretary.

The Board recessed until Saturday, June 25, 1983

The Board reconvened on Saturday, June 25, 1983. HARRY RUJA assumed his duties as Chairman. The Board continued to discuss the use of the ERS name by members.

LEE EISLER moved that official ERS stationery be used only for official business. The motion carried.

LEE EISLER moved that members be allowed to use unofficial (members') ERS stationery for all unofficial purposes. The motion carried.

A motion was made to allow any member to say, in a letter, that the writer is a member of The Bertrand Russell Society. The motion carried.

STEVE REDHARDT moved that no member shall represent himself as speaking on behalf of The Bertrand Russell Society unless he has been authorized to do so by the President or the Board of Directors of The Bertrand Russell Society. The motion carried.

Attention was again focused on JACK BAGSDALE's request that the ERS endorse a nuclear freeze. DON JACKANICZ moved that the ERS endorse a nuclear freeze. KEN SHACKWELL seconded. STEVE REDHARDT moved to table the motion; BOB DAVIS seconded. The motion to table carried. The meeting recessed to noon, Sunday, June 26, 1983.

The Board reconvened at noon, Sunday, June 26, 1983 to consider endorsing a nuclear freeze. LEE EISLER moved that the following be adopted: "The Bertrand Russell Society, believing that any use of nuclear weapons will lead to an unlimited use of nuclear weapons and probable end of the human race, is in favor of a mutual, verifiable nuclear freeze, and urges the leaders of the major nuclear powers to pursue this path." DON JACKANICZ seconded. The motion carried.

The Board asked DON JACKANICZ, ERS President, to send a copy of this resolution to the leaders of the two major nuclear powers. The meeting of the Board of Directors of The Bertrand Russell Society, Inc., an Illinois corporation, was adjourned.

Submitted July 17, 1983

*Steve Maragides, Jr. c.*  
Steve Maragides, Acting Secretary  
for Cherie Ruppe, Secretary