

## ANNUAL MEETING (1989)

- (14A) June 23-25, New York: that's when and where the BRS held its 1989 Annual Meeting...at the Milford Plaza Hotel Friday evening, and at the Ethical Culture Society Saturday and Sunday.

Present at the Meeting:

Members: DENNIS DARLAND, BOB DAVIS, LINDA EGENDORF, LEE EISLER, VIC FERNANDEZ, DAVID GOLDMAN, CLARE HALLORAN, DON JACKANICZ, JOHN JACKANICZ, TED JACKANICZ, DAVID JOHNSON, MARVIN KOHL, KEN KORBIN, GLADYS LEITHAUSER, CARL MILLER, CHANDRAKALA PADIA, STEVE REINHARDT, MICHAEL ROCKLER, WALTER VANNINI, THOM WEIDLICH. 20 members.

Guest speaker/participants: Louis Greenspan (Manager, Bertrand Russell Editorial Project, McMaster University), Alan Ryan (Professor, Politics, Princeton University), David Sidorsky (Professor, Philosophy, Columbia University).

Other guests: Miriam Hecht, Dorothy Klein, Jonathan Lobl.

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These BRS Officers were elected or re-elected, effective immediately: Chairman, Marvin Kohl; President, Michael Rockler; Vice President, John Lenz; Treasurer, Dennis Darland; Secretary, Don Jackanicz.

Other actions taken during the Meeting:

- . Agreed to McMaster's request for a price increase for *Russell*.
- . Adopted a new fee schedule, effective 1990. See (17)
- . Waived dues for the following year for new members who enroll during the final quarter of the year.
- . Chose the site and date of the 1990 Annual Meeting: McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, June 22-24, 1990
- . Adopted a new grant program for candidates for Master's and Doctoral degrees. See (18)

For amplification, see the Minutes of the 1989 Annual Meeting and Minutes of the Board of Directors 1989 Annual Meeting (15). Please correct the Minutes of the Board: replace "senior citizen" with "limited income" in the 4th paragraph.

There was a Red Hackle Hour, enjoyable as always, and a superb Chinese dinner at Shun Lee's, both on Saturday.

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Events of the weekend included these:

- . Announcement of the BRS Award to Paul Edwards.
- . Announcement of the BRS Book Award to Alan Ryan.
- . Announcement of the BRS Service Award to Harry Ruja, retiring BRS Chairman.
- . Talk by Alan Ryan, *Russell's Political Life*.
- . Panel: *Skepticism vs. the Benefits of Illusion*. Participants: David Goldman, Marvin Kohl, David Sidorsky.
- . Talk by Alan Ryan, *Russell's Pacifism*.
- . Talk by Marvin Kohl, *Understanding the Pragmatics of Pacifism*.
- . Tim Madigan's paper, read by Vic Fernandez, *The Rationality of Waging War*
- . Talk by Michael Rockler, *Skepticism and Education*.
- . Talk by Louis Greenspan on the present status of *The Russell Editorial Project*

#### The Awards

- (14B) The 1989 BRS Award to Paul Edwards. Remarks by Marvin Kohl:

Paul Edwards is Professor of Philosophy at Brooklyn College and The New School for Social Research. As a teacher, editor-in-chief of *The Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, and general editor of Macmillan's *Great Philosophers* series, he has contributed significantly to the growing renaissance in philosophy. He was an early pioneer in Russell scholarship, and kept the faith when it was unpopular and often costly to do so.

Edwards met Russell in 1950, and corresponded with him about *The Logic of Moral Discourse* and *Why I Am Not A Christian*. It was not easy to have *Why I Am Not A Christian* published. It took political skill, patience, and a great deal of courage. Russell was very much impressed by Edwards' courage, and said so in a 1956 letter. In 1957 Russell writes, "I am glad that Simon & Schuster have recovered their nerve about the book and that it will be published within a couple of months. Please, again, accept my thanks and congratulations for your share in the work."

I remember my first meeting with Paul Edwards. I was a student in his graduate class on logical positivism. He opened the course by claiming that scientific method was the only source of knowledge, and that metaphysical statements were meaningless, or at least, deeply problematic. With a Russellian gleam in his eye, he quickly added that "much of what parades for knowledge is metaphysics or some other form of intellectual rubbish." I know of few men who naturally and more passionately abhor the cognitive abuses which typify