

FROM THE PRESIDENT

John R. Lenz, President, The Bertrand Russell Society

Recently I participated in the "First International Conference on Human Behavior and the Meaning of Modern Humanism," held in the stunning setting of Delphi, Greece on June 14-17, 1995. BRS members Tim Madigan, Paul Kurtz, and Christos and Alice Tzanetakos helped enliven the event. The conference was called to define the meaning and directions of humanism.

The opening papers in this conference were theoretical and historical. It was only a matter of time before someone rose up and objected that this was all too airy for him: he was an administrator and man of action. Then, one night, a fairly large earthquake hit not far away. As we sat listening to talks the next day, Greek television broadcast reports of people trying to save friends and even complete strangers from under the debris of collapsed buildings. One couldn't help wondering, who are the true humanists, we or they?

Humanists need not be philosophers, but humanists and philosophers share certain traits. By nature they are self-conscious and critical about almost everything they do, and how and why they do it. Some call this an occupational hazard, while others (like myself) find it admirable. Thoughts do influence action and attention to one certainly need not, and should not, preclude the other. Who teaches this better than Russell?

Russell was the model of an engaged intellectual in this century. He was a "passionate skeptic," as Alan Wood depicted him, "perhaps the last public sage" in the words of Caroline Moorehead. He insisted that unpleasant aspects of human behavior will not change unless societies re-examine whole systems of belief and thought. This idea, now a truism, was a premise of the Delphi conference. When we witness apocalyptic cults in the grip of ancient myths planning mass destruction, or fundamentalist dogmas becoming mainstream both here and abroad, we see the power of ideas in perverted form. Skeptics and critical thinkers, Russell fearlessly demonstrated, must not lack the conviction to engage the critical issues and to recognize the power of ideas and their consequences.

Thus, while it may not be enough to assuage feelings of guilt or helplessness in times of real crises, I couldn't help feeling that at Delphi we were still doing something of potential long-term usefulness. As an academic, I usually must think this way, anyway, but I take comfort from the belief that Russell would agree.

Similar questions have entered the Bertrand Russell Society. We are not a society of action, and most certainly not a political group, but we discuss how best to honor Russell's legacy. In this way, the BRS constantly defines itself, as it needs to do. In the past, some have spoken about giving our annual BRS award to an individual of action rather than a scholar, to someone who, like Russell, "made a difference." The suggestion was in Russell's spirit, but (I remember my surprise) would Russell deny that the writing of books was useful "action"? More recently, we have debated, from the other side, whether the BRS should beware of identifying itself (specifically in connection with the granting of honorary memberships) with anyone too political.

We aren't all interested in humanism or philosophy or social activism, but we all share an admiration for Russell, a public intellectual. We do need to think how we can foster our goal of promoting knowledge of Russell's life and work.

What would you like us to do? I encourage all members to write to myself or Michael Rockler. Please share ideas and information about new writings, events and activities.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Several leadership changes in the Bertrand Russell Society occurred at the annual meeting held in Columbia, Maryland. Michael J. Rockler was elected chair of the board of directors. Don Jackanicz continues as secretary.

John Lenz is the new president of the society while John Shosky is the new vice president. The board reaffirmed Lee Eisler's position as vice president/information emeritus. Dennis Darland continues as treasurer of the society.

Marvin Kohl and John Shosky join David Johnson on the philosopher's committee. John will chair the committee. Don Jackanicz replaces Gladys Leithauser as chair of the book committee.

The November issue will contain a ballot for election to the board. Please send any nominations for board members to Michael Rockler.

MINUTES OF THE 1995 BERTRAND RUSSELL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING Donald W. Jackanicz, Secretary

The 1995 Annual Meeting of The Bertrand Russell Society was held at The Columbia Inn Hotel and Conference Center, 10207 Wincopin Circle, Columbia, Maryland 21044, U.S.A., June 30 - July 2. Except as noted, all events took place in Ellicott Room on the ground floor.

FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 1995

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Michael Rockler, who offered general remarks of welcome and orientation. Book Award Committee Chair Gladys Leithauser then presented the 1995 BRS Book Award to Kenneth Blackwell and Harry Ruja for *A Bibliography of Bertrand Russell*. After accepting the award on behalf of Mr. Ruja, who was unable to attend, and himself, Mr. Blackwell spoke at length about this great three volume work and the years of scholarly effort leading to its recent publication. The meeting was recessed at 9:00 p.m. The Board of Directors meeting was then held. (Refer to the separate Board minutes.)

SATURDAY, JULY 1, 1995

President Rockler reconvened the meeting at 9:10 a.m. In addition to Society members, five students from President Rockler's university class attended the morning session as guests. John Shosky made a presentation titled "Multiculturalism, Authenticity, and Enlightened Self-Interest: Bertrand Russell and the Quest for Political Recognition." Following a short break, President Rockler spoke on "Russell and Education: Russell's Debt to Locke."

The annual Society Business meeting was then held, beginning at 11:15 a.m. President Rockler introduced John Lenz and John Shosky, who respectively had been elected the new President and Vice President by the Board of Directors the previous night. President Lenz thanked President Rockler for having organized a fine meeting. Secretary Donald Jackanicz then moved that the reading of last year's annual meeting minutes be suspended; his motion was seconded by Mr. Blackwell and was unanimously accepted. Mr. Jackanicz gave a brief oral report concerning the previous night's Board meeting. Treasurer Dennis Darland reported that the Treasury's fund balance was U.S. \$3,533.16. David Johnson moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted; his motion was seconded by Mr. Rockler and unanimously accepted. Discussion turned to three topics: BRS participation in the Eastern, Midwest, and Western Division annual meetings of the American Philosophical Association; how e-mail can be used to promote the BRS and for communication between members; and how to increase membership through advertising strategy and a revival of the Information and Membership Committee. Next considered was this series of honorary membership advisory nominations, which would require affirmative Board of Directors action before honorary membership may be offered:

Nominations by Mr. Blackwell, seconded by Mr. Jackanicz:

- Kenneth Coates. Yes 14, No 1, Abstain 1.
- Elizabeth Eames. Yes 16, No 0, Abstain 0.
- Nelson Mandela. Yes 7, No 7, Abstain 2.
- Willard Van Orman Quine. Yes 16, No 0, Abstain 0.
- Michael Foote. Yes 6, No 6, Abstain 5.

Nominations by Mr. Shosky, seconded by Mr. Madigan and Carl Westman:

- Paul Kurtz. Yes 16, No 0, Abstain 1.
- Antony Flew. Yes 15, No 0, Abstain 2.

Lastly Mr. Blackwell discussed the fundraising work of the Bertrand Russell Editorial Project and the mailing recently sent to all BRS members. In accordance with Stephen Reinhardt's motion that was seconded by Mr. Madigan, the Society Business Meeting was adjourned (and the overall meeting was recessed) at 12:55 p.m.

Following a luncheon break, the meeting was reconvened at 2:15 p.m. Mr. Madigan made a presentation, "Russell and Dewey on Inquiry." Following a short break, Paul O'Grady, a lecturer at Trinity College, Dublin and winner of the 1995 Paper Prize Contest, read his paper. "The Russellian Roots of Naturalized Epistemology." The meeting was recessed at 4:30 p.m.

The Red Hackle Hour and Banquet were held in a lounge and dining area outside the Ellicott Room beginning at 5:30 p.m. At the Banquet, past President Rockler introduced Brian Dixon, Director of Government Relations for Zero Population Growth (ZPG), who accepted the 1995 BRS Award on behalf of ZPG. Expressing appreciation for the award, Mr. Dixon spoke about ZPG's efforts through the years and current problems challenging his organization. The Banquet ended at 9:15 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 2, 1995

The meeting was reconvened by President Lenz at 9:00 a.m. James Alouf made a presentation, "Bertrand Russell as Teacher Educator." After a short break,

a final presentation titled "Problems of Power in Russell's Politics," was made by Perter Stone. Following words of farewell from President Lenz and Past President Rockler, the meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

MINUTES OF THE BERTRAND RUSSELL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING June 30, 1995 Donald W. Jackanicz, Secretary

The 1995 annual meeting of the Board of Directors of The Bertrand Russell Society was held at The Columbia Inn Hotel and Conference Center, 10207 Wincopin Circle, Columbia, Maryland 21044, U.S.A. on Friday, June 30, 1995. The meeting began in the Ellicott Room on the ground floor. However, after about one hour, it was necessary to relocate the meeting to Secretary Donald W. Jackanicz's hotel room, Room 319. The following directors were present: Kenneth Blackwell, Dennis J. Darland, Linda Egendorf, Lee Eisler, Donald W. Jackanicz, Gladys Leithauser, John R. Lenz, Tim Madigan, Stephen J. Reinhardt, Michael J. Rockler, John E. Shosky.

In the absence of Chairman Marvin Kohl, Secretary Jackanicz called the meeting to order at 9:05 p.m. and explained that Chairman Kohl had asked Kenneth Blackwell to chair the meeting.

The first order of business was the election of Board and Society officers. For Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr. Madigan nominated Michael J. Rockler, and Mr. Darland nominated Marvin Kohl. The secret ballot vote was as follows: Mr. Rockler - 7, Mr. Kohl - 3. Mr. Lenz then moved that Marvin Kohl be recognized and thanked for six years of service as Chairman; this motion was unanimously accepted. For the following positions, these officers were nominated by the individuals in parentheses and were elected by acclamation:

- Society President: John R. Lenz (Mr. Jackanicz)
- Society Vice President: John E. Shosky (Mr. Lenz)
- Society Vice President/Information Emeritus: Lee Eisler (Mr. Jackanicz)
- Board and Society Secretary: Donald W. Jackanicz (Mr. Rockler)
- Society Treasurer: Dennis J. Darland (Mr. Rockler)

Mr. Madigan moved that Mr. Rockler and Mr. Jackanicz respectively fill the unexpired Board terms of the late Jack Cowles and Paul Arthur Schilpp; this motion was unanimously accepted.

Discussion turned to the location of the next two annual meetings. Mr. Rockler moved that President Lenz be permitted to decide the 1996 annual meeting site and date; this motion was unanimously accepted. President Lenz then explained that he would work toward holding the 1996 annual meeting on the campus of Drew University, Madison, New Jersey. Mr. Rockler next moved that the 1997 annual meeting be held in conjunction with the joint meeting of Free Inquiry and the Humanist Association of Canada; this motion was unanimously accepted. Mr. Rockler explained that the 1997 annual meeting site would probably be either Toronto or Montreal.

Secretary Jackanicz submitted the report of the committee formed at the 1994 Board meeting to make recommendations about possible new honorary membership nominations. (This report had been mailed to board members on May 24, 1995.) Following discussion, Mr. Rockler moved that all the names listed in the report be laid on the table and a new committee be formed to present five names for nomination at the next annual Board meeting and that the new committee's chairman be appointed by the Board Chairman. The vote on this motion was: Yes - 3, No - 3, Abstain - 3.

On other matters, Secretary Jackanicz read selections from Chandrakala Padia's recent letter describing activities of the Benaras Chapter in India. President Lenz reported that the editor of *Free Thought Observer* had asked for permission to quote *Russell Society News* material in his publication. President Lenz then explained how he will work on developing a World Wide Web home page for promoting the Society. Mr. Rockler reported he will begin editing *Russell Society News* with the August 1995 issue and described some of his plans for a new format. Mr. Jackanicz inquired about plans for continued Society participation in annual meetings of the American Philosophical Association (APA). It was informally agreed that Vice President Shosky and David Johnson would work together on promoting the Society through APA activities, if possible with the assistance of Marvin Kohl. President Lenz moved that a letter of thanks be sent to Ray Monk and the University of Southampton for sponsoring the July 14-16, 1995 "Russell and the Origins of Analytical Philosophy" conference; this motion was unanimously accepted.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 p.m.

BRS LIBRARY

The Society library sells and lends books, audiotapes, videotapes, and other materials by and about Russell. Please direct library inquiries and requests to Tom Stanley, Box 434, Wilder, VT 05088 (tom.stanley@infoport.com).

Books for sale H-Cloth, otherwise paperback. Prices are postpaid. Please send check or money order (U.S. funds only) payable to the "Bertrand Russell Society" to tom Stanley.

By Bertrand Russell:

Appeal to the American Conscience	Spokesman	\$3.50
Authority and the Individual	Unwin-Hyman	7.95
Has Man a Future?	Allen & Unwin	H 8.00
History of the World in Epitome	Spokesman	1.00
In Praise of Idleness	Routledge	8.95
My Philosophical Development	Unwin-Hyman	7.95
Political Ideal	Unwin-Hyman	7.95
Power: A New Social Analysis	Routledge	8.95
Principles of Social Reconstruction	Unwin-Hyman	7.95
Skeptical Essays	Routledge	8.95

By Other Authors:

Bertrand Russell by John Slater	Thoemmes Press	\$19.00
Bertrand Russell, 1872-1970	Spokesman	1.50
Bertrand Russell's America, Vol. 2, 1945-1970 edited by Barry Feinberg and Ronald Kasrils	South End Press	9.95
Liberty and Social Transformation: A Study in Bertrand Russell's Political Thought by Chandrakala Padia	Heritage Publishers	H. 11.50
The Life of Bertrand Russell in Pictures and His Own Words, edited by Christopher Farley and David Hodgson	Spokesman	10.95
The Selected Letters of Bertrand Russell, Vol. I, The Private Years (1884-1914) by Nicholas Griffin	Houghton-Mifflin	H. 17.50

Audio cassettes in the lending library

Speeches:

200	Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech. 1950 45'
201	"Mind and Matter." 1950 52'
202	"Bertrand Russell in Australia." 1950 55' Four ABC broadcasts: "Guest of Honor", "The World as I See It", "What Hope for Man?" and "My Philosophy of Life".
203	"Living in an Atomic Age." 1951 90' Six BBC broadcasts: "Present Perplexities", "Obsolete Ideas", "The Modern Mastery of Nature", "The Limits of Human Power", "Conflict and Unification" and "The Achievement of Harmony".
204	"Life Without Fear." 1951 34'
205	"Portrait from Memory: Whitehead." BBC 1952 15'
206	"Man's Peril." BBC 1954 15'
207	Russell-Einstein Manifesto. 1955 30'
208	"The World and the Observer," BBC 1958 30'
209	Kalinga Prize Press Conference and Acceptance Speech. 1958 48' Includes five minute interview of January 24, 1958.
210	"Address to the CND." 1959 30'