

**FROM THE EDITOR  
JOHN SHOSKY  
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY**

This is the 100th edition of what began as a newsletter and became as a quarterly. Over the last 25 years, the BRS has benefitted from the good work of previous editors Lee Eisler, Don Jackanicz, Dennis Darland, and Michael Rockler. Now, after this issue, we will turn the editorship over to Tim Madigan, a long-time member of the BRS who is well-known to most of you. Tim has been editor of *Free Inquiry* and is now with the University of Rochester Press. He is extremely competent as an editor and scholar. Tim will vigorously promote Russell Studies. I am very pleased that he will be the new editor. My tenure has been marked, some would say "blighted", by the late appearance of issues. Tim is much more conscientious and dedicated than I am, so I believe we will soon be producing our issues on time, rather than a few months late.

Since this is my last *Quarterly*, I would like to thank my Assistant Editors, Bob Barnard and Katie Kendig. They have been of tremendous help. I also thank John Lenz and Ken Blackwell for their interest in the *Quarterly* and their patience. I have been proud of the *Quarterly* the past two years, but I am especially pleased to have produced two issues from Prague. The May, 1998 issue was memorable for me because of the articles by Barnard, Tim Childers, and myself on Russell's following in Eastern and Central Europe. Also, I have been very happy with Cliff Henke's video reviews, but the one in the May issue was particularly good. Cliff is a life-long friend and brother. I'm proud to have included him in this project. Trevor Banks has a valuable comment on the May video review at the end of this issue.

Perhaps I might be allowed one observation about how to improve the *Quarterly*. Over the two years of my editorship, there have been precious few contributions from the membership. This is a strange thing because most of our members are opinion leaders, thoughtful advocates of Russell's work, good writers, and eager communicators. Surely we could see more in the way of essays, reviews, and other commentary from the membership. I include the BRS leadership in this comment, because we need our officers and board members to set a high standard of participation. We especially need more comments from our European and Asian members. We need to know what is happening in France, Germany, Portugal, Spain, Yugoslavia, the Philippines, India, China, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea and many other countries where we have members. I would also be interested in comments from our members in Mexico and Puerto Rico. I strongly urge our members to support Tim Madigan and the *Quarterly* with submissions on Russell Studies and related areas of interest. I hope that the members continue to express themselves in greater numbers through essays, reports of important conferences and

events, video reviews, contemporary re-considerations of Russell's books, reviews of new secondary literature on Russell, and other comments that keep Russell's views at the fore-front of modern thought.

I thank all of those who have submitted work during my time as editor. You've made my life easier and I have enjoyed being associated with your fine efforts.

In this issue, our centenary issue, we have more commentary from the Annual Meeting last June at the University of South Florida. BRS President John Lenz has a report for our membership.

Then, we have another addition of "Russell News", talking points for cutting-edge study of Russell.

Two papers read at that conference by Alan Schwerin and Mitchell Haney follow. Schwerin's concerns Russell and critical thinking. Haney has some critical insight on Ray Monk's biography of Russell.

We also have another conversation with a famous philosopher about Russell. This time it is Sir Peter Strawson, interviewed in Oxford last year.

There are two books reviews. One is by Matt McKeon, reviewing a new volume of collected essays by Antony Flew, an honorary member of our society. The other is by Bob Barnard, examining a book by Jan Dejnozka, a member of the BRS.

Finally, there are two membership profiles. These profiles help us learn about each other. Please take the time to fill in a form if you haven't done so in the past.

And don't forget to renew your membership for 1999!!!

Cheers.

**REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT  
JOHN LENZ  
DREW UNIVERSITY**

**The 1998 Annual Meeting**

We had a most successful and productive BRS Annual Meeting at the Ethics Center of the University of South Florida, in St. Petersburg, on June 19-21, 1998.

Attendees came from as far afield as Portugal; Caracas, Venezuela; Ontario; and many parts of the United States. We saw some BRS members who live in Florida and our meeting at the Ethics Center also enabled us to meet a number of the members of the Humanist Association of St. Petersburg (or HASP). Steve Reinhardt, we discovered, is the only person who has attended all 25 annual meetings (this brought him a small reward).

I wish to thank, besides all who attended and participated, Jan Eisler, Mitchell Haney, and John Shosky for helping with essential work in the preparation of the meeting, and Don Jackanicz for generously supplying a jug of the quasi-sacramental Red Hackle. Financially, the meeting almost broke even, and it would have done so, but for one recalcitrant individual who refuses to pay the registration fee.

The program was varied and, I thought, very rich and well balanced. We had talks by new (to us) philosophers, such as Bob Barnard, Henrique Ribeiro, and Alan Schwerin, presentations by old favorites such as Stefan Anderson and Trevor Banks, and a good audience composed of persons of varied interests and backgrounds, all united by their passion for Russell and what he stands for.

The meeting served as a poignant memorial for Lee Eisler. Jan Eisler, Lee's wife, distributed beautiful postcard reproductions of Lee by her friend (and attendee and new BRS member) Carol Dameron, and hosted a lovely memorial luncheon on Sunday (which happened to be World Humanist Day).

Javier Bonet (from Caracas) took photos of the meeting (including the star, the bottle of Red Hackle) with his digital camera and posted them to the WWW at: [members.tripod.com/jbonet/brs98](http://members.tripod.com/jbonet/brs98).

### **BRS Business**

At this meeting we began to address some business crucial to the continuing future vitality of the BRS. New officers were elected, as previously reported in the *Quarterly*. Next year, it will be important to elect a new president. It is not good for an organization to have the same persons serve too long as officers. I see this year as a transition period.

The new Chairman of the Board is Kenneth Blackwell, the founding editor of Russell and former long-term Russell Archivist. Besides his duties as Chair -- such as coordinating committees and Board discussions -- Ken will also oversee Memberships and Renewals.

Ken, Jan, and myself have been gathering information about a crucial decision facing us: the status of our incorporation. Currently, the BRS is incorporated in

Illinois, with Don Jackanicz as our Registered Agent and his address as our Registered Office. Don is a lifetime member but, after having held virtually every BRS office and over some 20 years, he very reasonably wishes to pass on these particular duties to someone else. Two possibilities are on the table: we can pay a company to serve as our Registered Agent and Registered Office in Illinois (for \$125 a year) or we can move to the Center for Inquiry in Amherst, New York (near Buffalo), as an affiliated group. We will be collecting more details and presenting them to the Board of Directors for discussion and a vote.

Myself, I am doubling as Acting Treasurer since Dennis Darland, the BRS Treasurer for the past 20 years, is temporarily disabled. Dennis will be undergoing medical treatment for the next six to nine months. You may send him your wishes at 9000 Rockville Pike, 4E, Bethesda, Maryland 20892.

For 1999, we accepted Alan Schwerin's kind offer to host the BRS Annual Meeting at Monmouth University, located on the New Jersey coast not far south of New York City and Newark airport.

Alan also plans to revive the BRS session at the Annual Meeting of the American Philosophical Society, Eastern Division, held every December.

I will also be improving and updating the BRS Home Page and planning the next Annual Meeting.

As usual, please send your ideas for the BRS and contributions to the *Quarterly*. Beginning with the next issue, Tim Madigan will be the new editor. Please send your contributions to him.

### **RUSSELL NEWS**

Tim Madigan has been named the new editor of the BRS *Quarterly*. He will begin his editorship with the next issue, February, 1999, Number 101.

Alan Schwerin, David Rodier and John Shosky spoke at the Russell Session of the Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, December 29, 1998 in Washington, D.C. Schwerin lectured on Ottoline Morrell and Bertrand Russell ("A Lady, Her Philosopher, and a Contradiction"). Rodier spoke about Russell's comments on a paper by Victor Lenzen at Harvard in 1914. Shosky discussed Russell's introduction to Wittgenstein's *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*. The session was well-attended and thanks go to Alan for arranging it.

Whittier Publications has announced *Reason and Belief: Great Issues in*