

NEWSLETTER #3  
September 1974

(1)

As in previous Newsletters, an asterisk in the left column indicates a request that you may wish to respond to. The abbreviation NL2-4 would refer you to Newsletter #2, Item 4. There are a number of new sections, including one, ABOUT INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS, that — as its name suggests — gives some information about individual members and about the nature of their interest in BR. Item 48 gives a brief listing of members' special interests. Edith Russell and Lester E. Denonn have joined BRS as Honorary Members. There is a particularly good statement (we think) by George Williams on why he values BR (Item 84.) Remarks by members have sometimes been edited and condensed.

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REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

President Peter G. Cranford reports:

(2)

President's letters.The "President's Monthly Letter, June 1974" and the "President's Interim Letter" (June 14, 1974) were sent to all members. We repeat 2 items:

"We are now in a sort of shakedown cruise. The ship has been launched and we are engaging in the serious business of sailing it on rough and uncharted waters. The crew has not yet become a unit and hence there are all sorts of uncertain roles, disagreements, self-doubt as to whether one should be a member of the crew, and presumably some doubt as to whether Columbus is going to discover the new route to India.

"Sooner or later we are all going to show up with weaknesses. First with ourselves, and then with others. We need to finesse around weaknesses and capitalize on virtues so that the ship will be adequately and efficiently manned. It will be worth a second and third effort, and even major sacrifices, if we believe 'then conquer we must, if our cause it is just.' There will be no survival for us, our children or our grandchildren, unless someone assumes the responsibility of a massive effort to increase the amount of rationality in the world. This was Russell's cause and it is our cause." (Monthly Letter)

"As to the function of the BRS President himself, I think we should follow BR: 'What I suggest is that no one should learn how to obey, and no one should attempt to command... (A leader's) authority is suffered voluntarily... to achieve a common purpose... Purposes should not be forcibly imposed on others... This is what I mean when I say no one should command and no one should obey.' ON EDUCATION, P. 38, Allen & Unwin, 5th Impression, 1966.) (Interim Letter)

- (3) BRS, current status. "The Society is operating very smoothly at the moment. We have a steady flow of mail coming from and going to members, and it takes several hours a day to keep things current.  
"I think we have established ourselves as an organization deserving serious consideration, and the time has come to take a stand on issues."
- (4) BR Peace Foundation sent a letter (Item 32) to The (London) Times, of 6/20/74 — signed by Edith Russell, Ken Coates, and Chris Farley — protesting Solzhenitsyn's charge in 'Gulag Archipelago' (Volume 2, not yet out) that BR 'in some way connived at, or apologized for, injustice in the Soviet Union.'
- (5) BR discussion groups. Ken Blackwell, Martin Garstens, Jack Pitt, and Gary Slezak are organizing BR groups. (See Items 13, 15, 16.)
- (6) Honorary member procedure. "The election of honorary members hit a snag which Jack Pitt straightened out in a hurry. The membership approved the following procedure: 'A person may be nominated for honorary membership if he/she (a) is a member of the Russell family; or (b) has worked closely with BR, giving him substantial support and encouragement in one or more of his larger projects; or (c) has made a distinctive contribution to some area of Russell scholarship. A 2/3 vote of the membership is needed to confirm the nomination.'"
- (7) By-laws. "Jack Pitt has accepted the task of working up a set of by-laws. I have also asked Jack to handle all problems of organization."
- (8) Founders photo. If you signed up (some time ago) for one or more of the photos taken at the founding meeting, the correct, agreed-on price is \$2 per photo. Lee Eisler reports he refused a COD for \$15.40. If any of you were charged more than \$2 per picture, please let me know."
- (9) Welcoming letters. "I am writing welcoming letters to all new members."
- (10) Husband-and-wife dues are to be \$15 annually. This is a tentative, executive decision, made because a quick answer was desired. The members will be asked to ratify or revise it, at the Annual Meeting.

Vice-President Robert K. Davis reports:

- (11) Integrating new members. Bob is working to "integrate new members into the organization — to get their ideas, and discover what activities might interest them. Many new members wish to do something constructive and we have to provide them with that opportunity. All committee heads should be thinking of ways to do this. For example, I think that on the International Civil Liberties Committee, we might offer new members either a topic, such as torture, or a country, such as Chile, to specialize in. They could then educate the rest of us, and possibly promote some kind of action. I have been writing to new members with this in mind. The topic should be of their own choosing."

For Bob's report on the International Civil Liberties Committee, see Item 20.

Secretary Jack Pitt reports:

(12) Edith Russell's letter. Jack sent Edith Russell a copy of the BRS Constitution and the Minutes of the First Meeting. She responded as follows: " I am intensely interested in its founding and have read the document several times with great happiness in the serious purpose and determination that they evince. I send my warmest congratulations to you and the other founders." She urges us not to be discouraged by snags we may strike but to carry on her husband's work.

(13) BRS(Fresno). The first meeting of this local chapter — BRS(Fresno) — was held May 30th, attended by 12 — 5 townspeople, 5 students, Jack and his wife. In response to the group's wishes, another meeting was scheduled for July, to discuss THE CONQUEST OF HAPPINESS; and another in the Fall, to see a BR movie and discuss it. Jack makes these points: 1) Banks and other organizations have meeting rooms that they will let out free to responsible organizations. 2) So will public libraries. 3) Libraries will usually put posters in all branches announcing the meeting. 4) Libraries often have their own programs — films or discussions — and a BRS chapter might integrate into this. For instance, Jack will put a BR film into the Library series of films; he will benefit by the general publicity that the Library gives to this series, and he will invite the audience to stay after the film to discuss BR and the BRS.

Some problems: (a) "Many of the public are interested in a philosophical-literary society. They are happy to discuss BR and to have a BRS. But they do not have the intensity of interest in BR that most present BRS members have. It would be unfortunate to lose these people, who basically have a 'Great Books' approach. Yet we will lose them if the activities  
 \* of the BRS were to be construed narrowly. I invite comment." (b) What  
 \* part of the \$12 dues should stay in the local chapter (to pay local  
 \* expenses)? (c) Should something extra be offered to the general public,  
 \* as an extra inducement to pay the \$12 dues, and if so, what?

(14) Treasurer Katharine Tait reports, as of June 5, 1974:

Balance on hand (April 4, 1974).....	\$841.76	
Income: Founders' pledges, and contribution..	549.99	
Membership dues.....	<u>161.00</u>	710.99
		<u>1552.75</u>
Expenditures: McMaster for 15 "Russell" subscriptions.....	45.00	
Information Committee.....	<u>178.46</u>	223.46
Balance.....		1329.29

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Applied Philosophy (Martin A. Garstens, Chairman):

(15)

Discussion group. The first meeting — of 10 persons including Martin — was held at Martin's house June 17th. At the second meeting, July 15th, the 10 participants discussed THE CONQUEST OF HAPPINESS, "which gives rise to many interesting topics. It is a tremendous challenge to see if one can successfully steer a group of philosophy non-professionals toward an ongoing philosophic activity, stressing in the initial stages self-examination." Things went well, says Martin. The plan is to meet monthly, except for summer vacation interruptions. The next meeting is scheduled for September.

(16)

Committee on Applied Philosophy (Gary M. Slezak, Committee Member):

Discussion groups. Gary's first discussion group — of 11 participants, including himself — met July 6th to discuss COH (THE CONQUEST OF HAPPINESS), which all had read. The discussions are taped. Gary's aims were: 1) "to test BR's ideas on today's younger people; 2) to get a sample of youth's thinking about happiness and the future; and 3) to gain experience for future discussion groups which I plan to hold later at U. of Chicago." Ages ranged from 21 to 26. The adverse criticisms are interesting:

• "The book is too simplistic. Real life is never so predictable.

• "The book is dated. Some wished BR had revised COH to make it more relevant to today's world. Many things which today cause great unhappiness are not included, e.g., the population explosion, the Bomb, etc.

• "The book is elitist. Some found BR a bit too detached from the mainstream of existence. One said: 'He talks about the common man but his examples are somewhat clumsy and condescending...you can tell he's an aristocrat who's never had to experience what most people have.' Many felt this way. Several reacted against BR's reference to happy colored people.

• "The book is sexist. All but one of the women — 5 out of 6 — resented what they felt to be generalizations about women, especially in the chapter on envy.

• "The book is 'too rational!' A genuine misunderstanding — and perhaps mistrust — of rationalism was evident throughout the discussion. One person opposed BR's advocacy of an orderly mind, another attacked his advice on making decisions in a rational manner. Some felt that rational methods made one less human, despite the argument that since only man is capable of rationalism, any increase would make him more human, not less."

On the other hand, "most found BR's chapter on 'the sense of sin' very good. All had been reared in a strong religious environment; none felt that religion had given them much satisfaction, and many attributed this to the reasons BR mentions in this chapter."

Gary plans to meet with 3 more discussion groups before our February 1975 meeting, at which time he will report his findings, including selected transcripts of the tapes — "expletives included," he says.

Information Committee (Lee Eisler, Chairman):

- (17) Advertising. The classified ads in SATURDAY REVIEW/WORLD, 5/4 and 7/21, produced good results. A 3rd ad is scheduled for 9/21. The ad in THE NEW YORK REVIEW OF BOOKS, 5/2, did poorly.
- (18) Membership. To date (8/16/74) we have mailed 64 "information packages" (including an invitation to join) to persons who inquire about the BRS or whose names are suggested by other BRS members. Suggest names, \* please.
- (19) Newsletters. "I put together — and mail— the Newsletters. They are sent to members, honorary members, and to the BR SOCIETY IN JAPAN, the BR SOCIETY IN AUSTRALIA, and the BR PEACE FOUNDATION (England.) Back issues are sent to new members."

International Civil Liberties Committee (Robert K. Davis, Co-Chairman):

- (20) Amnesty International. "I have joined this group. It provides a great deal of information. It selects 3 people per month to mount campaigns for — one from the East, one from the West, one from the Third World. They are selected regardless of ideology but they must not have committed nor advocated acts of violence; they are usually in prison for their opinions. The campaign consists of writing letters to officials of the offending country, protesting the situation and asking for redress." Bob may poll BRS members as to whether they wish BRS to take part in some future campaign.  
Bob also belongs to ACLU and has recently joined the International League for the Rights of Man.
- (21) United Nations Declaration. Bob has provided the enclosed folder, UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, containing the text adopted by the General Assembly in 1948.

Committee on Science (J. B. Neilands, Chairman):

- (22) "The argument against chemical weapons is that they are indiscriminate, apt to involve non-combatants, and excessively cruel in the sense that survivors may be debilitated for life. They were outlawed by the 1925 Geneva Protocol, a measure that Nixon wants the Senate to ratify in a compromised form, i.e., one that would sanction the use of tear gas and herbicides. Watergate is just a caper compared to the crimes committed by LBJ and Nixon in Indochina with the use of these agents. Read about it in "Harvest of Death," J. B. Neilands et al., Free Press, 1972."
- (23) Letter to BR Peace Foundation. "Dear Ken (Coates), I have your circular regarding an organized campaign to curb suppression of political dissent in the USSR and Eastern Bloc European countries. Do you think it would be useful if a commission of The Bertrand Russell Society were to visit the USSR to interview scientists regarding their freedom to travel, their rights to political dissent and the general quality of their academic and professional lives? The commission

could report first to our members and then to the media and the various professional science societies to which we belong. I look forward to hearing from you soon." (dated 8/1/74)

Activities under consideration:

- (24) Symposium. Joe may try to interest a professional science society in co-sponsoring — with BRS — a major symposium with social significance, at the science society's annual meeting.
- (25) Anniversary. "This October will mark the 10th Anniversary of the student uprising, the Free Speech Movement, at Berkeley, which sparked similar movements elsewhere. The BRS might salute this date with an appropriate symposium. The 1964 Free Speech Movement needs to be analyzed from the perspective of a decade of elapsed time. In the years which followed Nixon's and Reagan's coming to power, a lot of people died in Indochina and we got Watergate. We need to assess what needs to be done to enhance our civilization and preserve the biosphere in a reasonably habitable form for all living things. We could recruit the core of the speakers locally and possibly raise travel expenses for the others via an advance from a publishing house.  
"There is also a possibility that this Anniversary can be made part of a course I am going to supervise here in the fall Quarter."
- (26) Rider. "I am trying to get a Congressman interested in attaching a rider to all federal grants for basic research which would require a showing of social responsibility on the part of the principal investigator. At the very least, this would generate a lively discussion. I would plan to circulate a draft of the legislation among ourselves, in the Newsletter, etc., before going public with something that might be half-baked and liable to embarrass the Society."

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ABOUT ER'S WRITINGS

- (27) Which book(s) got them started on ER? Members were asked, on the QUESTIONNAIRE, "What was the first thing written by ER that you read?"

3 said THE PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY  
3 said WHY I AM NOT A CHRISTIAN  
2 said MARRIAGE AND MORALS  
2 said THE CONQUEST OF HAPPINESS

The following titles were mentioned once: AUTOBIOGRAPHY, A HISTORY OF WESTERN PHILOSOPHY, THE SCIENTIFIC OUTLOOK, WHICH WAY TO PEACE? WISDOM OF THE WEST, UNPOPULAR ESSAYS.

Of the first 3 books read by BRS members, these are the titles and number of mentions:

THE PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY — 5  
 THE CONQUEST OF HAPPINESS — 4  
 A HISTORY OF WESTERN PHILOSOPHY — 4  
 WHY I AM NOT A CHRISTIAN — 4  
 THE BASIC WRITINGS OF BERTRAND RUSSELL — 3  
 AUTOBIOGRAPHY — 3  
 MARRIAGE AND MORALS — 3  
 UNPOPULAR ESSAYS — 2

These titles are mentioned once: ABC OF ATOMS, ABC OF RELATIVITY, THE AMBERLEY PAPERS, HAS MAN A FUTURE? HUMAN SOCIETY IN ETHICS AND POLITICS, HUMAN KNOWLEDGE, OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE EXTERNAL WORLD, PROPOSED ROADS TO FREEDOM, RELIGION AND SCIENCE, THE SCIENTIFIC OUTLOOK, SELECTED PAPERS, WAR CRIMES IN VIETNAM, WHICH WAY TO PEACE?

To date (8/6/74) 22 members have returned the MEMBER'S QUESTIONNAIRE. Not every question was answered, which is why the "first thing read" adds up to less than 22.

- (28) Over 25. The following members report that they have read more than 25 books by BR: CAMPBELL, DAVIS, EISLER, KAHAN, LACKEY, MILNE, PITT, SLEZAK, WILLIAMS.
- (29) COH as a starter. Peter Cranford has given away over 700 copies of COH, to friends and to people who see him professionally. Gary Slezak has given 50 copies "to family members, to friends, and to friends of friends. It was easy." People whose first taste of BR comes via COH often discover they like BR and want to read more of him. But see Item 16.

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#### ABOUT BERTRAND RUSSELL

This section will deal with everything about BR except his writings, such as his experiences and activities, his influence, his personal qualities.

- (30) BR and computers. "...workers in computing machine design are indebted to previous workers in logic and hence obviously to Russell for the monumental 'Principia'," writes Dr. Warren L. Semon, Director of Systems and Information Science, Syracuse University, and Chairman of the Editorial Board of COMPUTER. Dr. Semon's letter is reproduced on Page 24.

The following are quotes from A COMPUTER PERSPECTIVE, by the office of Charles and Ray Eames, Harvard University Press, 1973:

"In 1910 'Principia Mathematica' by Bertrand Russell and Alfred N. Whitehead presented the idea that logic is the foundation of all mathematics. It develops the calculus of propositions, solving equations in terms of statements that are either true or false." (P. 121)

"The methods of symbolic 'true or false' logic described by Russell and Whitehead were, in 1937, shown to have practical application to the design of electrical circuits (in Shannon's thesis, 'Symbolic Analysis of Relay and Switching Circuits.'" (Caption to picture of "Principia Mathematica")

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"Bush's differential analyzer (1930) was the first general equation solver. It was very successful. And to many people it began to appear that such big general purpose analog computers would dominate scientific calculation in the future.

"'I was trying to solve some of the problems of electric circuitry, such as the one connected with failures and blackouts in power networks,' said Bush, 'and I was thoroughly stuck because I could not solve the tough equations the investigation led to.'" (P. 117)

"The Bush differential analyzer originally gave its solution in the form of curves." That is, it was non-digital.

"While a graduate student, Shannon took a part-time job operating a Bush differential analyzer. The analyzer's relay circuits needed frequent attention, and Vannevar Bush suggested to Shannon that the design of such circuits would make a good thesis subject."

"In 1937 Claude E. Shannon, for his Master's Thesis at M.I.T., described a way of using symbolic logic to improve electrical switching circuits. In one example, he showed how to simplify an 'Electric Adder to the Base Two.'...Shannon's paper, as it turned out, proved that programming an electronic digital calculator would be a problem, not in arithmetic, but in logic." (Caption)

"Shannon's thesis, published in the 'Transactions of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers' provided a theoretical basis for the entire set of operations that would be designed into electronic digital computers."

(31) Sierra Club's salute to BR. Their ad in the June issue of SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN is reproduced on Page 25.

(32) Solzhenitsyn's error. The following "Letter to the Editor" appeared in The Times (London) on June 20, 1974:

"SOLZHENITSYN AND BERTRAND RUSSELL

From Edith Lady Russell and others

Sir, According to volume one of "Gulag Archipelago", the Soviet security services have, in the past, commonly assumed that they are under no obligation to prove the guilt of those whom they have arrested, preferring to allow these victims to establish their own innocence even if that has been virtually impossible in the circumstances of their detention. Solzhenitsyn writes very powerfully, and with just scorn, of this practice, which he rightly sees to be logically invalid and morally reprehensible.

"Unfortunately, if the report from Agence France-Presse which you carried on June 13 is accurate, then in the second volume of the same work Solzhenitsyn himself seems to be guilty of a not dissimilar attitude in at least one respect. When he brackets the name of Bertrand Russell with that of Dr. Hewlett Johnson, and charges that Russell in some way connived at, or apologized for, injustice in the Soviet Union, he is responsible (no doubt from ignorance, but responsible none the less) for a slander against one who consistently opposed



the terror in Russia from the very earliest days of the Revolution.

"If Mr. Solzhenitsyn will look at 'The Practice and Theory of Bolshevism,' first published in 1920, or at any of Russell's other subsequent voluminous writings on the Soviet Union, socialism and related matters, he will very quickly appreciate the serious injustice of his remarks.

"Russell's outspoken critique of repression in the USSR was earning the strenuous denunciations of numerous Soviet apologists at a time when Mr. Solzhenitsyn was, by his own account, deciding whether or not to join an NKVD training school. When Stalin died the BBC invited Russell to submit an obituary. But when they received it they refused to transmit it, because they felt it to be too unflattering.

"In later years, whilst continuously pressing for detente and avoidance of war, Russell persistently defended Soviet writers, scientists and artists from the attacks of the authorities and passionately denounced their repression. More than once he spoke and wrote on behalf of Solzhenitsyn himself.

"It pains us to have to complain in this way about a writer who has conducted himself with such courage in the face of oppression: but if your report is true, then Solzhenitsyn has done a great wrong to Bertrand Russell, and we earnestly hope and expect he will hasten to correct it.

"Yours sincerely,

EDITH RUSSELL

KEN COATES

CHRIS FARLEY

The Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, Ltd.

Gamble Street, Nottingham

June 14 "

Ken Blackwell adds the following:

"The falsity of Solzhenitsyn's charge is demonstrated by Russell's preface to Gustav Herling's 'A World Apart', the autobiography of a Siberian prisoner, and by a chapter in Freda Utley's 'Odyssey of a Liberal,' where Russell battled with Shaw to get her husband out of Siberia."

- (33) The obituary of Robert Rounseville — who played the title role in the 1956 Broadway musical production of "Candide" (of which there is a superb Columbia LP) — states: "At the time of his death, he was completing plans to appear this fall in a one-man show, 'Guided Tour of Intellectual Rubbish,' based on the life and writings of Lord Bertrand Russell, the British philosopher." (New York Times 8/8/74)

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#### NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS

- (34) IRVING ASHKENAZY has a story — "The Business of Urchins" — in WESTWAYS (July 1974) that will interest lovers of the sea, says Peter Cranford.

- (35) AMY P. BLOCK graduated with honors in biochemistry from the University of California, Berkeley, in June, and is now a graduate student.
- (36) PETER CRANFORD. "I have been in a long fight against the Army on behalf of two patients. It has proceeded from the lower echelons to the Pentagon and Secretary of Defense Callaway. In substance, I and a chaplain recommended a compassionate re-assignment for a black sergeant whose wife was suicidal. The stress upon both was so acute that I predicted a breakdown for him and probable death for her. The sergeant did break down and is now psychotic, and the wife made an attempt that was aborted by one of the members of my staff. Eight children are involved."
- Two weeks later: "I was able to convince the Secretary of the Army to over-rule the Pentagon, and Anthony is on his way home. Anthony is only the tip of the iceberg. The blow of a thousand blows, which I have mentioned before, is to see how this case can be used to help those who are intimidated by the Army's Catch 22, "If you are having a hardship, take a hardship discharge." Since there was considerable Army sentiment for Anthony, I suspect that it was the absence of a democratic process that was (and is) the real villain."
- Jack Anderson had a fairly long version of the story in his column of June 5th.
- (37) JOE NEILANDS gave a one-month lecture course in Peru this summer, at the University of San Marco, oldest university in the New World, founded in 1551. They gave Joe an Honorary Professorship, a gold medal, and "a visit to the Inca ruins for the whole family."
- Joe has edited — and written an introduction to — MICROBIAL IRON METABOLISM, a volume to be published soon by Academic Press. For the announcement, giving details, see Page 26.
- (38) KATHARINE RUSSELL TAIT has a book about her father scheduled for publication — by Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich — in February or March 1975. "It is mostly personal reminiscence and reflection on 'Life with Father'. There is quite a lot of domestic detail and stuff like that, but basically it is an answer to the question: what was it like, having BR for a father? There is some discussion of his ideas, of course, but it's not a theoretical book. Nor is it a 100% fan book; Russell buffs may not like it. However, I wanted it to be honest, as my father would have wanted it to be."
- Kate will give an evening course on BR's educational ideas at Dutchess County Community College (where she regularly teaches German) this fall.
- (39) GARY M. SLEZAK is working on an article on BR's stay at the University of Chicago in 1938-39.
- (40) Please do not hesitate to send in news about yourself. You help BRS when you do so. You will not be thought to be seeking the limelight. Such news is interesting to other members. We repeat what we said in the first Newsletter: If you change your job, publish a paper, attend a conference, make a speech, run for office, engage in political activity, picket some villain, etc. please let us know about it. Include any event that occurs in your work or in your life as a citizen, whether or not related to BRS or its aims.

## HONORARY MEMBERS

We take special pleasure in welcoming the Honorary Members:

- (41) EDITH RUSSELL is BR's widow, the light of his later years, to whom he tenderly, gratefully, glowingly dedicated his AUTOBIOGRAPHY. For more about her, see the AUTOBIOGRAPHY. For her formal title, see Item 61. Her address: Plas Penrhyn, Penrhyndeudraeth, Merioneth, England
- (42) LESTER E. DENONN has had a distinguished career in law: he recently retired from a leading New York law firm (Simpson, Thacher and Bartlett); has written a number of law review articles; has had 113 book reviews in the American Bar Association Journal, a record number; and his widely-used work, "Secured Transactions under the Uniform Commercial Code," will soon be in its 6th edition.
- Aside from and in addition to all this, he is probably the first Russellite. Not a professional philosopher, not a professional logician, he — like many — is interested in everything BR wrote. His collection of books by and about BR is enormous (he's been at it quite a while); a catalog listing the contents of his BERTRAND RUSSELL LIBRARY runs to some 150 pages. Yet he hasn't merely collected BR, as the following works indicate:

- . THE PHILOSOPHY OF BERTRAND RUSSELL, edited by Paul Schilp. Tudor Publishing, 1944 and 1951. Lester Denonn wrote the 60-page bibliography.
- . THE WIT AND WISDOM OF BERTRAND RUSSELL. Edited and with an introduction by Lester Denonn. Beacon Press, 1951.
- . BERTRAND RUSSELL'S DICTIONARY OF MIND, MATTER, AND MORALS. Edited and with an introduction by Lester Denonn. Philosophical Library, 1952.
- . THE BASIC WRITINGS OF BERTRAND RUSSELL 1903-1959. Edited by Robert Egnor and Lester Denonn. Simon & Schuster, 1961.

Consequently, anyone interested in BR is likely (a) to know Lester Denonn's name, and (b) be grateful to him for his contributions to BR scholarship and for helping to make available a good sampling of what BR wrote. His address: 135 Willow Street, Brooklyn, NY 11202.

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## NEW MEMBERS

- (43) We are very glad to welcome these new members:

Fred W. Allendorf, 2725 Montlake Blvd. E., Seattle, WA 98112  
 Noel F. Ambery, Warren Turnpike Road, Falls Village, CT 06031  
 Mary Axel, 554 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10036  
 John A. Butler, Lecturer in English, School of Basic Studies,  
 Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria  
 Capt. Herb A. Campbell, PO Box 231, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

Dr. Elizabeth E. Eames, Department of Philosophy, Southern Illinois  
 University, Carbondale, IL 62901

Bonnie Flanagan, 604 Second Street, Alice, TX 78332

Dan Freedman, 4 Lakeview Road, Deal, NJ 07723

Dr. Edwin E. Hopkins, 352 S. Drew Street, Baltimore, MD 21224

Charlotte H. Kaplowitz, 317 Terhune Avenue, Passaic, NJ 07055

Dr. Marvin Kohl, Department of Philosophy, State University College,  
 Fredonia, NY 14063  
 Alfred C. Kwok, Box 7634, University Station, Austin, TX 78712  
 Dr. Charles R. Magel, Department of Philosophy, Moorhead State College,  
 Moorhead, MN 56560  
 Col. Robert L. Perley, Rt. 1, Box 189c, Murphy, NC 28906  
 Evelyn V. Reader, 8315 Loring Drive, Bethesda, MD 20034

Rebecca Sue Ringer, 702 Gove Street, Quinter, KS 67752  
 Dr. Harry Ruja, Department of Philosophy, San Deigo State University,  
 San Deigo, CA 92115  
 Ronald C. Rybnikar, 29 Chicjon Lane, East Hanover, NJ 07936  
 Hildburg Scheu, Apt. 12, 15 Amos Avenue, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada  
 Glenma M. Stone, 3340 Oakridge Drive, Augusta, GA 30904

Rodney L. Thomas, 226 N. Lincoln, Kent, OH 44240  
 Gene Tuck, Box 435, Exeter, NH 03833  
 Dr. Atwell R. Turquette, Department of Philosophy, University of  
 Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801  
 Dr. George Williams, Burlington County College, Pemberton-Browns Mills  
 Road, Pemberton, NJ 08068

(44) Membership total: There are now 48 members, plus 2 honorary members.

(45) Trial membership. Since the BRS is an unknown quantity to people who do not belong to it, we are offering trial memberships. Our Letter of Invitation ends this way: "You may join on a trial basis. Dues are refundable on request any time during the first year of membership."

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#### MEMBERSHIP ANALYSIS

(46) Why they join BRS. According to answers on the QUESTIONNAIRE, most members have joined BRS for one or more of the following 5 reasons:

- to learn more about BR — about the man, about his writings, about his ideas and aims.
- to be in touch with like-minded people, who share my interest and enthusiasm.
- to further BR's purposes, to promote his ideas and aims.
- to do something useful for others by being part of a group that aims to carry on BR's work.
- to be able to discuss BR's work with others who share my interest and enthusiasm.

Some other reasons mentioned:

- to have a positive effect on my thoughts and behavior.
- to help with my teaching and service to the community.
- to do my part in spreading his ideals and message.
- to be identified with BR (whom I greatly admire) through the BRS.
- to spiritually profit by joining.

- . to change BR's U.S. image.
- . to discover the special BR-interests of other Russellites.
- . I joined because I believe in what BR believed.

Implicit in many of the above reasons is the desire to learn — and perhaps to teach others — how to live the Good Life.

(47) Occupations of members. BRS is not a scholarly organization, but 24 of its 48 members are affiliated in one way or another with colleges and universities. Included among the 24 are 11 professors of philosophy, 4 graduate students, and 6 undergraduates. The membership list also includes an architect, an archivist,, a biochemist, a river captain, a retired Army colonel, a master electrician, several engineers, a marketing specialist, a psychologist, a physicist, an English teacher, a German teacher, several writers, and a self-styled laborer.

(48) Members' special interests. Members were asked, in the QUESTIONNAIRE, "What subjects or topics that BR deals with are you particularly interested in?" Here are their responses:

AMBERY:atheistic ethics BEATTIE:philosophy of man/epistemology  
 BLOCK:everything/especially mis-use of science CAMPBELL: humanism/  
 peace DAVIS: everything/especially BR's non-technical philosophy  
 EISLER:ethics-politics-power/science/history GARSTENS: everything  
 R.A.HYMAN:BR's general logical,rational approach to life JACKANICZ:  
 ethics/religion/philosophy(except logic)/ contemporary society/  
 history/BR's life and experiences JOHN: BR's commonsense philosophy  
 of living in harmony with all elements KAHAN: social and political  
 ideas KONG: avoidance of nuclear war/ BR's religious ideals LACKEY:  
 history of BR's logic MILNE: all NEILANDS: peace/disarmament/anti-  
 imperialism PITT:BR's logic and mysticism ROBERTS: philosophy in  
 general/logic/theory of knowledge/religion RYBNIKAR: agnosticism/  
 Christianity SLEZAK: social philosophy, ie.politics/history/  
 education/ religion STONE: man's relations with others, as a  
 caring person in society TAIT: education TUCK: epistemology  
 WILLIAMS: logic/epistemology/ BR's political and social concerns

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS, AND REMARKS

(49) Richard A. Hyman, responding to NL2-46, suggests the following Russellite statement:

"The most important thing we have to offer Russellites is the opportunity to serve themselves in a very worthwhile and fulfilling manner, if their interests are in this area."

\* \* \* \* \*

## SPECIAL REQUESTS

- (50) "1976". Gary Slezak has volunteered to take charge of Project "1976" — the proposed collection of BR quotes on America, to tie in with America's Bicentennial in 1976. (NL2-45). Please send BR quotes on America, both complimentary and uncomplimentary, to Gary. (Item 58 gives his new address.) Write or type the quotes on 4 x 6 cards, and write your name on the back. Thanks!
- (51) Questionnaire supplement. We plan to send all members a MEMBER'S QUESTIONNAIRE SUPPLEMENT requesting the following additional information: phone, name of colleges and universities where you obtained degrees (if any), name of your present employer, your specialty, your hobby, your recreational interests, your age. We'd like to know your age because it will help in our long-range planning. We'd like to know your specialty and hobby so that when some question comes up that falls within your area of interest or expertise, we can refer it to you. As in the original Questionnaire, answers are optional. If there is any other item or question you'd like to see included in the SUPPLEMENT, please send it to the Newsletter (Box 409, R.D. 1, Coopersburg, Pa. 18036.)
- (52) Short BR biography. BRS could make good use of a short, skeleton biography of BR; just the bare bones. Each event should get a paragraph; paragraphs should be numbered; titles for further reading should be included. Will someone volunteer to do this?
- (53) \* Courses on BR. If you know of any courses on BR being given anywhere this fall, please tell us.
- (54) Greeting card. Bob Davis wants to put together a "Season's Greetings" card, with some appropriate quote from BR and a suitable design. ("I borrowed the idea from 'The Humanist in Canada'," says Bob.) Anyone with ideas, please forward them. "Ken, anything you can suggest for a cover — a design or picture that BR was fond of? How about the recipe for Lord John's pudding?"

\* \* \* \* \*

## FINANCES

- (55) A generous contribution has been made to our not exactly robust bank account by Corliss Lamont. It is much appreciated.
- (56) Money, money, money. If any of you are in position to donate extra money — that is, money in addition to dues — to the Society's treasury, it will be very welcome. Several projects are being explored — the possibility of publishing a book, of making replicas available of Jacob Epstein's head of BR — that we'd like to be in position to go ahead with. For projects like these, we need extra money. If you find you can make a contribution, send it, any time, to Hurst John, Chairman, Finance Committee, 2011 Country Club Road, Columbia, Mo. 65201.

Also, if you can contribute extra money in future on a regular annual basis, write Hurst John and say, "I expect to contribute \$XX to the BRS annually," so that he can have an idea of how much money will be coming in.

Contributions or statements of intentions will not be announced (except in special cases). When BRS becomes a non-profit organization, legally, then contributions will be tax-deductible.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### RECOMMENDED READING

(57)

##### By BRS members:

Elizabeth Eames. BERTRAND RUSSELL'S THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE. Allen & Unwin, 1969. Recommended by Peter Cranford.

Douglas Lackey. ESSAYS IN ANALYSIS. George Braziller, 1973. Essays by BR, selected by Dr. Lackey, who also wrote the introduction. Recommended by Peter Cranford.

Corliss Lamont. VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS: COLLECTED ESSAYS OF 50 YEARS. Prometheus Books. Recommended by Bob Davis.

Jack Pitt. WITH RUSSELL AT THE ARCHIVES, an article in "Russell 2" Recommended by Peter Cranford.

##### By a non-member:

Karl Popper. THE OPEN SOCIETY. "His defense of democracy in Volume 2 is well worth reading in the light of Watergate," says Peter Cranford.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### ADDRESS CORRECTIONS & CHANGES

(58)

The following 6 new addresses replace the addresses in NL2-4.8:

Lorraine C. Beattie, Faculty of Arts, Department of Philosophy,  
University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada N2L 3G1  
Amy P. Block, Apt. A, 2328 Roosevelt Street, Berkeley, CA 94703  
Dr. Martin A. Garstens, Senior Fellow, Department of Physics and  
Astronomy, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742  
Dr. Don D. Roberts, Faculty of Arts, Department of Philosophy,  
University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada N2L 3G1  
Gary M. Slezak, Head, Curriculum Laboratory, Regenstein Library,  
Room 471, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL 60637  
Dr. Katharine Tait, 18A Kirchner Avenue, Hyde Park, NY 12538

## MISCELLANEOUS

- (59) Let us know if your Newsletter arrives battered. We may have to use a heavier mailing envelope.
- (60) Let us know if your address is incorrect.
- (61) Concerning the mysterious ways (to Americans) of English titles: Ken Blackwell advises that a letter to Edith Russell could be addressed in any 1 of 3 ways: The Countess Russell; Edith, Countess Russell; Edith, Lady Russell. Inside, the letter would start off, "Dear Lady Russell," etc. She signs herself "Edith Russell"

\* \* \* \* \*

## ABOUT INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

- (62) NOEL F. AMBERY, of Falls Village, Conn., Master Electrician, began his Russell reading with THE ABC OF ATOMS. He is specially interested in BR's atheistic ethics. He joined BRS because he "would like to know more of Bertrand Russell." He'd like BRS (1) "to educate the public on the harmfulness of modern mythology (religion);" and (2) "to educate the public on the harmfulness of future wars." He belongs to "Americans United for Separation of Church and State." and "Society of Separationists."
- (63) LORRAINE C. BEATTIE, of Waterloo, Ontario — a graduate student and teaching assistant in Philosophy at Waterloo University, who attended the Founding Meeting — first read THE PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY, THE THEORY OF DESCRIPTIONS, and THE BASIC WRITINGS (part), in that order. She is specially interested in BR's "philosophy of man" and epistemology. She was taken with BR's "straight-forward rational approach...as well as the penetrating insights..." She values his "reasonableness, his undogmatic attitude that's reflected in a willingness to revise earlier positions..." She joined BRS to "become more familiar with BR's life and ideas and with the interests of other Russellites." She is keenly interested in the Committee on Applied Philosophy's efforts to "promote a philosophic attitude in everyday life." She hopes to have her Ph.D. by December 1974.
- (64) AMY P. BLOCK, of Berkeley — a graduate student in Nutrition at University of California — first read the AUTOBIOGRAPHY (III), then HUMAN SOCIETY IN ETHICS AND POLITICS, then MY PHILOSOPHICAL DEVELOPMENT. She is interested in everything BR has written, and wants to have it all read by the end of 1974. (!) She is specially taken with BR's integrity, and with his insights into human behavior. She joined BRS (after hearing about it from her Professor of Biochemistry, Joe Neilands) because she wants to become a Russellite. She'd like BRS (1) to work to win U.S. adherence to the Geneva Protocol outlawing chemical warfare (discussed in NL2-30): and (2) to promote BR's philosophy.



(65)

HERB A. CAMPBELL, of Wisconsin Dells — a semi-retired River Captain, and retired musician, First Class, USN — has read most of BR. He is specially interested in the BR Peace Foundation and in BR's association with Whitehead. (Whitehead's ADVENTURES OF IDEAS — 1932 — was "the first heavy book in my life.") He was specially taken with BR's "humanism", his peace activities, and his sense of humor. He values BR's rational approach to mysticism; "BR was not an atheist." He joined BRS because of "my interest in BR's approach to the humanities, and because of my personal devotion and admiration for this man and mind of the Century." He'd like BRS to "win more acclaim and recognition for BR and for his motives."

Some years ago he printed at his own expense 10,000 copies of BR's A NEW APPROACH TO PEACE, a 5000-word pamphlet on the then newly formed Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, for which BR expressed his appreciation in a letter dated 4/29/66. He has distributed these pamphlets to the "many university centers I visit, to my many friends in the American Federation of Musicians, and to my federal and state representatives."

At Wisconsin Dells — "a major scenic attraction of the Mid-West" — he has also been in charge of public relations, and has written a number of attractive pamphlets, one of which (with handsome pictures) has sold more than a million copies. He has kindly offered to send them to any BRS member who writes him requesting them. (PO Box 231, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965) They will also be available for BRS members to look at, at the February 1975 Meeting.

He recalls with pleasure the time he and BR became partners (sort of) by consummating a gigantic transaction. It seems that BR had written that he collected rivers, but that his collection contained only Eastern rivers (Ganges, Yangtze, etc.) and he offered to trade with someone who had Western rivers. "I, as a River Pilot, offered him a trade — Mississippi, Orinoco, Amazon, etc." BR accepted, suggesting that they both might jointly own all the rivers. — a proposal which Captain Campbell found entirely satisfactory.

Captain Campbell wants to devote himself "to the promotion of ideas promulgated by Russell."

(66)

PETER G. CRANFORD, Ph. D. of Augusta, Georgia — BRS President — left home at age 15, and 50 years later founded The Bertrand Russell Society. In between, he acquired a Ph. D. and became a clinical psychologist; wrote 2 books on popular psychology; originated the \$64 Question (later the \$64,000 Question); and fathered 5 children. He came across BR's writings by accident; in a bookstore, looking for a book to recommend to patients, his eye lit on a book titled, THE CONQUEST OF HAPPINESS. That's how it all began.

(67)

ROBERT K. DAVIS, of Los Angeles — BRS Vice President, salesman, former teacher — has read "roughly 65-70 of BR's books, and many articles and letters at the Archives." He is "interested in everything BR wrote, but especially the non-technical philosophy." He was taken with BR's "forceful, clear style and the scintillating rationality." (He first read MARRIAGE AND MORALS, then WHY I AM NOT A CHRISTIAN, and THE PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY.) He also values BR's "Renaissance mind, and moral passion." He joined BRS "to associate with like-minded people, and to further his (and my own) interests. These are reward enough. I want to participate in something that will achieve good things." He'd like BRS to achieve a solid membership, and link up internationally.

Bob's interest in BR "began in adolescence, when he found BR's social philosophy both liberating and intoxicating." He wrote his Master's Essay on BR's activities during World War I. He attended the 1972 "Spheres of Influence in the Age of Imperialism" Conference, hosted by The BR Peace Foundation, in Linz, Austria, and the 1972 Centenary at McMaster.

He is also Co-Chairman of the Committee on International Civil Liberties.

(68)

LEE EISLER, of Coopersburg, Pa. — Chairman of the Information Committee, former advertising writer — has read about 45 books by BR, starting with THE SCIENTIFIC OUTLOOK, HUMAN SOCIETY IN ETHICS AND POLITICS, and HUMAN KNOWLEDGE. He is specially interested in BR's writings in ethics-politics-power, science, history. He was taken with BR's intellectual honesty and competence, and with his ability to write interestingly and with clarity and precision, especially on the topics just mentioned. He values BR's "liberating views on morality, his intelligent approach to promoting mankind's well-being, his pursuit of enlightenment, happiness, and peace." He joined BRS because BR "has been my chief interest for a number of years, to learn more about BR, and to be in touch with other BR-enthusiasts. Also I like being identified with BR through the BRS." He'd like BRS to (1) develop a brief statement of BR's own aims and purposes, and (2) attract more Russellites. He has written a short book based on BR's views on morality, MORALS WITHOUT MYSTERY, which BR said a few kind words about.

(69)

MARTIN A. GARSTENS, Ph.D., of Silver Spring, Md. — Chairman, Committee on Applied Philosophy; Senior Fellow, Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Maryland — is interested in everything BR wrote. Philosophically, he considers BR's "big contribution to be the demonstration of the central role logic must play in Philosophy and Life. But not the only role." He joined BRS to associate — and have discussions — with like-minded people, and to participate in furthering BR's ideas. He is conducting a BR discussion group. (Item 15)

(70)

RICHARD HYMAN, of New York City — a sales and marketing specialist — has read MARRIAGE AND MORALS and THE CONQUEST OF HAPPINESS. He is specially interested in BR's "general logical and rational approach." He values BR's "power not only to have thought it all out but his ability to translate it into words so that people like myself can learn and use his ideas to a practical advantage." He joined BRS in the hope that "this association will have positive effects on my thoughts and behavior and that I can have a more positive effect on people I associate with, as a result." He says he has been living an empty life, and that now, BR's philosophy "gives me the chance to grow and change it."

(71)

DONALD W. JACKANICZ, of New York City — a graduate student at New York University, in Modern European History, chiefly interested in Great Britain, Germany and Russia, and the general period 1890-1945 (he also has a B.A. in Philosophy) — has read 15 of BR's books, starting with WHY I AM NOT A CHRISTIAN (a title he found startling), THE PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY, and UNPOPULAR ESSAYS. His special BR interests include ethics, religion, philosophy (except logic), contemporary society, history, BR's life and experiences. He was taken with BR's "fine writing style, including elements of expressive humor, well-directed emotionalism, and simple reasoning, especially in the non-technical books/essays; in philosophy and politics, his distinction between what can be known (through science alone) and what by its nature cannot be known but only desired (these being the things of value in life.)" He specially values BR's "continuing efforts in a variety of social concerns with which I identify; his exciting life; (from a historian's viewpoint, his life may be understood as reflective/representative/indicative of certain contemporary British and world developments;) his excellence in writing. Discovering "Russell" enhanced his BR interests; consequently, he joined BRS because "I thought

in some way I would spiritually benefit by becoming connected with it. I value the sheets I have thus far been mailed." He'd like BRS to (1) "help spread BR's ideas throughout the world (including translation projects), so that individuals may consider BR's approach to life, its troubles, and happiness; and (2) sponsor research on BR's role in philosophy, history, education theory, etc."

"I feel BR was a monumental figure in certain disciplines and a perceptive one in most others; I may do work on his life and contribution for my dissertation, but at present this is uncertain."

(72)

HURST JOHN, of Columbia, Mo. — Chairman of the Finance and Annual Meeting Committees, architect and consultant — was drawn to BR as a result of reading WISDOM OF THE WEST and THE CONQUEST OF HAPPINESS. He is specially interested in BR's "commonsense philosophy of living in harmony with all elements." He was taken with BR's "open-minded expressions, clear thinking, honest explanations, straight-forward challenges, harmonious expressions — ingredients present in all men of integrity." He specially values that fact that BR — "like all other free thinkers — made it clear that every living soul is an important total being worthy of his living." He joined BRS because he felt it would contribute to "awareness and awakening," to "sharing the joy of living," to "feeling worthy," and to "doing what I believe in." He'd like BRS (1) to "share our enthusiasm for reality, so as to inspire a thousand participants;" (2) "to become a stepping stone to BR's kind of freedom;" and (3) to generate an awareness of universal knowledge as reflected in BR's writings."

(73)

GERALD KAHAN, of Randallstown, Md. — a chemical engineer with McCormick & Co. (spice and extract firm), and part-time graduate student (in food science) at University of Maryland — started with THE PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY, THE ABC OF RELATIVITY, and PROPOSED ROADS TO FREEDOM, and by now has read 50 books by BR. He is specially interested in BR's social and political ideas. He was taken with BR's "incisive logic and breadth of knowledge." He specially values BR's "attitude and approach to life." He joined BRS "to meet people with similar interests." He'd like BRS "to solidly establish itself." He has suggested that BRS consider doing these projects: (1) a documentary film on BR; (2) a biography of BR for young readers; (3) a display package illustrating BR's life and work, for museums, libraries and colleges.

(74)

DARRELL KONG, of Fresno — a student at California State College (where Jack Pitt is his Professor of Philosophy) — has read A HISTORY OF WESTERN PHILOSOPHY, THE CONQUEST OF HAPPINESS, and numerous articles on nuclear warfare and on religion. He is specially interested in BR's efforts to avoid nuclear warfare and in BR's views on religion. He was much taken with BR's protest against World War I and the Vietnam War. And BR's "constant attacks" on the dogmas of established religions "inspired me greatly." He specially values BR for his "philosophical thoughts and for THE CONQUEST OF HAPPINESS." He joined BRS to learn more about activities centering around BR, and wishes "to do my part in spreading his ideals and furthering his work, so that peace and joy can be for everyone." He'd like BRS to make speakers available, who talk informally at public meetings about BR in relation to present problems.

- (75) DOUGLAS LACKEY, Ph. D., of Wayne, N.J. — Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Baruch College of the City University of New York — has read about 55 books by BR, starting with WHY I AM NOT A CHRISTIAN, THE BASIC WRITINGS OF BERTRAND RUSSELL, and A HISTORY OF WESTERN PHILOSOPHY. He is specially interested in the history of BR's logic, and recently edited the collection of BR papers titled ESSAYS IN ANALYSIS, published by Braziller (1973) in both hardcover and paperback editions. He was captivated by BR's prose style. What he specially values about BR is "nothing less than the whole corpus of his writing and the spirit all his books convey." He joined BRS feeling that an appropriate function of the Society would be to "act to bring out new editions of BR's works and keep old ones in print." He'd like BRS to arrange for the republication of WHAT I BELIEVE as a separate book.
- (76) JAMES B. MILNE, of Ottawa — an Engineering Procurement Officer (Aerospace) for the Canadian Government — has read with care some 20 of the 65 books by BR that he owns; he has delved into the rest of them, and intends to read them thoroughly too. He began with MARRIAGE AND MORALS. He is interested in all of BR's works, "though I have some difficulty with his mathematical logic and some of his philosophy." (Who doesn't? Ed.) He was taken with BR's "clear thinking, expression, continuity — and I thought he was, for the most part, right." He also values BR's amazing range of knowledge, and the way he writes. "He is, of course, for the most part, still right." He joined BRS because of his interest in BR, and "hopes to discover more on this fascinating man." He also hopes that the U.S. image of BR can be changed. He'd like BRS to (1) make available an inexpensive bibliography of books by and about BR; (2) make available reprints of BR's articles; (3) provide "information on the people carrying on BR's philosophy and ideas where BR left off"; (4) make available transcripts, records and tapes of BR's radio and TV interviews. (1) above should also contain price and where-to-buy information.
- (77) J.B. NEILANDS, Ph.D., of Berkeley — Chairman, Committee on Science; Professor of Biochemistry, University of California; member, 3rd Commission of Inquiry, Bertrand Russell War Crimes Tribunal, North Vietnam (1967); founder, Scientists' Committee on Chemical and Biological Warfare (1968); co-author, "Harvest of Death — Chemical Warfare in Vietnam and Cambodia," Macmillan, 1972; early critic of nuclear power, author of pamphlet, "Industrial Radiation Hazard" (1963); initiator of one of the first citizens' victories against nuclear power plants, at scenic Bodega Bay, California — first read BR's statements and pamphlets on the Vietnam War, then read the AUTOBIOGRAPHY. He is specially interested in BR's views on peace, disarmament, and against imperialism. He was taken with the clarity of BR's analysis of political events, and especially values BR because during the mid-1960s, "at a time when Western intellectuals were equivocal about the Vietnam War, BR came out 4-square against it. He thus displayed admirable qualities of leadership in the intellectual community." He joined BRS because it fits in well with two of his activities, teaching and doing something useful for the community. He would like to see BRS publish a good book, hold a good symposium. He happened to be present at the 1950 Nobel Prize ceremonies, when BR won the award for literature, "but he made zero impression at that time."

- (78) DON D. ROBERTS, Ph.D., of Waterloo, Ontario — Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Waterloo, and past President of the C. S. Peirce Society — has read perhaps 10 of BR's books. He is specially interested in BR's views on "logic, theory of knowledge, philosophy in general, and religion." He was (and is) drawn to BR by his "candor, willingness to change his mind; his ability to simplify complicated matters in a way which does not disparage the complications; his power of thought." He joined BRS because he thought he "could help a little at the start."
- (79) RONALD C. RYENIKAR, of East Hanover, N.J. — a senior in Social Studies, Secondary Education, at William Patterson College, and member of the American Anthropological Association, American Ethnological Association, Council on Anthropology and Education, Northeastern States Anthropological Association — read WHY I AM NOT A CHRISTIAN, HUMAN SOCIETY IN ETHICS AND POLITICS, and POWER, in that order, and has thus far read about 10 books by BR. He is specially interested in BR's views on agnosticism and Christianity, and took to BR because "I had finally found someone who felt basically the same way I do about religion in general and Christianity in particular." What he specially values about BR are the 3 passions BR mentions in the prologue to his AUTOBIOGRAPHY as having governed his life: "the longing for love, the search for knowledge, and unbearable pity for the suffering of mankind." He joined BRS in the hope of gaining "a better understanding of the philosophy of BR." He'd like BRS to "try for the best possible communication between members."
- (80) GARY M. SLEZAK, of Chicago — Member, Committee on Applied Philosophy; Head, Curriculum Laboratory, University of Chicago — has read 30 books by BR, starting with THE PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY, AUTOBIOGRAPHY (III), HAS MAN A FUTURE? He is specially interested in BR's social philosophy, meaning BR's views on politics, history, education and religion. He was taken with BR's "moral values, especially his writings on religion and war; and with his concise and witty style of writing." He specially values BR's "search for truth and love; his intellectual honesty and wit; and his moral courage." He joined BRS because "I believe strongly in what he believed, and for the satisfaction of being involved in a very altruistic cause — spreading the 'Good Life'." He would like to see BRS (1) "sponsor a youth conference on rational alternatives," (2) establish campus Russell groups, and (3) "spread BR's ideas and values with the appearance of new books, studies, articles. (A sort of 'neo-Russellism'.) He is conducting group meetings. (Item 16)
- (81) GLENNA F. STONE, of Augusta, Ga. — student at Augusta College, bookkeeper, and Sunday School teacher of adults at 1st Baptist Church — knew BR only by reputation, as an Englishman critical of the U.S., until Peter Cranford gave her a copy of THE CONQUEST OF HAPPINESS. This led her to read SELECTED PAPERS and then THE BASIC WRITINGS OF HERTRAND RUSSELL. She is specially interested in BR's views on "man's relations with others, as a caring person in Society." She was taken with BR's wit and with "his handling of deep subjects in such an easy manner." She specially values BR's (1) "appreciation of the good in man; and his own goodness; (2) his 'gay irreverence'; and (3) his new approach to old problems." She joined BRS because she is eager "to explore philosophy and learn from great minds. BR is tremendously exciting."

(82)

KATHARINE RUSSELL TAIT, Ph.D., of Hyde Park N.Y. — BR's daughter, U.S. citizen, teacher of German, mother of 5 — has read about 20 of BR's books, starting with WHICH WAY TO PEACE? THE AMBERLEY PAPERS, and THE CONQUEST OF HAPPINESS. She likes the clarity and wit of his writings, and is specially interested in his views on education. She particularly values his courage,, integrity, and humor. She joined BRS "out of curiosity, I'm afraid.Hoped to meet people to talk to about his ideas and hopes; perhaps to be able to do something useful." (She says she hasn't regretted her decision to join.) She'd like to see BRS (1) achieve "a larger membership and a reputation for honest, generous help to the oppressed;" (2) set up college study groups; and (3) encourage the publication of articles in various periodicals.This fall she will give a course on BR's ideas on education; and her book about her father will be published early next year.(Item 38)

(83)

GENE TUCK, of Exeter, N.H. — "laborer (wage slave)", who wants no "Mr." in front of his name because he has"an eccentric's distaste for what seems to me to be mere rote convention" — first read UNPOPULAR ESSAYS, then A HISTORY OF WESTERN PHILOSOPHY, then OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE EXTERNAL WORLD,as he now recalls it. He has read about 10 of BR's works, and is specially interested in epistemology. BR's "understandability" delighted him. He particularly values BR for "his pioneering agitation, his provocativeness,and his fearless enquiry everywhere." He joined BRS because he wants to"get as complete an understanding as I can of everything BR wrote,stood for, hoped for, believed, thought, felt." He'd like BRS to (1)get"all of BR's writings into print, inexpensive print; (2) clarify what BR thought; and (3) work for world-wide application of BR's attitude and practice of free inquiry."

(84)

GEORGE WILLIAMS, Ph. D., of Medford Lakes,N.J. — Professor of Philosophy at Burlington County College — began reading BR essays at age 15, and was impressed by parenthetical remarks about religion at a time when he was "beginning to experience some doubts about religion." After the essays, he read RELIGION AND SCIENCE, then A HISTORY OF WESTERN PHILOSOPHY, and by now has read 30 to 40 of BR's books. He is specially interested in BR's "logical and epistemological theories, and in his political and social concerns." He values BR because BR "exemplifies integrity amidst our valueless cynicism and cynicism amidst our sanctimonious gullibility. When we reach intellectual puberty and discover, consequently, the Pandora box of civilized hypocrisy opening before us, the rare appearance of a Russell encourages that kind of hope which allows us to be cynics, but not valueless cynics. I originally encountered BR during my own intellectual puberty." As to what he most values about BR: "Today I cannot say whether I am attracted more to his innovations in logic and epistemology or to his commitments to social and political responsibility. Both are aspects of the same man." He joined BRS because he wishes"to discuss with others who share my enthusiasm, questions of interpretation of BR's work. Secondly, I would like to help promote the causes and arguments defended by BR." He'd like BRS to (1) publish a collection of currently out-of-print selections by BR and about BR; (2) support internationalism and pacifism regarding new occurrences in politics; and (3) conduct seminars which pursue a better understanding of BR's ideas." He corresponded with BR some years ago and currently "is engaged in writing a comprehensive commentary on his work."

P.S.

(85)

More on COH. Here are excerpts from a letter just in, from Peter Cranford to Gary Slezak, dated 8/15/74. Peter gives his reactions to Gary's discussion group's adverse criticisms of COH (Item 16):

"I was greatly surprised that they were so ambivalent. First, granting that COH has its deficiencies, it is the best there is. They should see what else is available! The most popular and perhaps the best, below Russell, is Dale Carnegie's "How to Win Friends and Influence People." COH is the only book I know of that offers an acceptable starting point for pursuing happiness. It does need an accompanying manual that would give examples of common problems that result in unhappiness and would tell precisely how to go about solving them. I think I could do it but the BRS makes such projects just about out of the question.

"It is true that real life is not too predictable. No two problems are precisely the same, yet there is generally a solution to all of them — except the final one — and BR's method for that one is the best available.

"As to Item Two, the book is limited, I grant; but the problems mentioned (by the group) are dealt with elsewhere by BR — the Bomb, the population explosion, and many others. This is a big problem with BR. " To find out what he thinks about various matters, " you have to read everything he has written. COH should be just a starter...a more or less philosophical one. If your group is working on an applied philosophy, I do not know any starting place other than COH — despite its limitations.

"On Item Four, I agree with your lone woman. The other women may have taken quick umbrage and overlooked the fact that BR directed his remarks to both men and women. BR anticipated the findings of psychology by many years. We now know that there is a pecking order in herd type animals and this holds true for human animals. As a consequence, everyone tries to climb in the pecking order by criticism, etc. and resists the climbing of others. This seems to contribute to a species and individual survival function. The instinct to climb is so strong via "malevolence" (at the sacrifice of others) that it takes the hardest form of self-discipline to overcome it. This is akin to paranoia, which also is a survival mechanism. 'Let the customer beware,' is one form of it.

"As to Item Five, although I admit we must cater to often 'irrational' emotions, this catering is a form of rationality — for we must consider emotions and religious impulses as data and give them scientific consideration. I think that mysticism is vestigial and very powerful, but it is in large degree a defect. We have to accommodate it, harness it, be on guard against it, and enjoy it. But to the degree that it interferes with our assessment of probability, to that degree, I think, one becomes "insane". No computer can afford to have a single bit of false data or unworkable process without become to that extent "irrational".

(86)

Asterisked items. Please go back and look at the asterisked items, starting at Page 1. You are making a contribution to BRS whenever you are able to respond. We repeat the Newsletter address: Box 409, R. D. 1, Coopersburg, Pa., 18036.

# SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

SYSTEMS AND INFORMATION SCIENCE | 313 LINK HALL | SYRACUSE, NEW YORK 13210

TELEPHONE 315 | 423-2368

June 25, 1974

Mr. Lee Eisler  
Chairman, Information Committee  
The Bertrand Russell Society  
Box 409  
R. D. 1  
Coopersburg, Pennsylvania 18036


Dear Mr. Eisler:

It is certainly true that computers, particularly computer designers, are indebted to logicians in general and hence Russell in particular. In 1938 Claude Shannon's masters thesis at M.I.T. described the use of the propositional calculus in the design of relay switching circuits. This work together with subsequent work at Harvard (in which I participated), at Bell Laboratories and M.I.T. laid the foundation for the use of Boolean algebra in the logical design of switching circuits (and hence of computers).

A specific reference to Russell's work and its relevance appears in "Computer Perspectives", a book about the History of Computers recently published by Harvard University Press.

In summary, it is true that workers in computing machine design are indebted to previous workers in logic and hence obviously to Russell for the monumental "Principia".

Very truly yours,

  
Warren L. Semon  
Director



a double corner (say the move is north-west in the illustration on page 107 of the February issue), quads must be placed on the cell two squares west of the king and on the cell immediately above that square, not on two white border cells as the text says.

In March I gave a method of trapping a rook or a bishop with two quads per move and a queen with four quads. Ashok K. Chandra, Robert Holmes, Ned Horvath, Eli Shapiro, Charles Whitmer and Thomas R. Wyant III all supplied proofs that a rook or a bishop can be trapped with one quad per move and a queen with three. Assume a rook is limited to  $n$  cells per move. The trapping strategy, on the minimum board of side  $5n^2 + 3$ , is to use the first  $4n$  moves to place (regardless of how the rook moves)  $n$  quads at the top of each top corner and at the bottom of each bottom corner. All four corners can be sealed in this way before the rook can attack a corner cell. Since the rook can then attack only one border cell at a time, single quads suffice to complete the entrapment.

A bishop on a sawtooth board is equivalent to a rook on a regular board (as explained in March): as a result the same

quads  
board  
trapping  
on  
 $n$  is

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN  
June 1974

brackets indicate rounding up to the nearest integer. Regardless of how the queen first moves,  $2n$  quads are placed on both sides of each corner, leaving the queen unable to attack more than three border cells on all subsequent moves. Chandra also showed that if the queen's maximum move is 2, it can be trapped by two quads per move on a board of side 67 or possibly smaller.

E. N. Adams, Robert Holmes and Thomas R. Wyant III found that the knight could be trapped with three quads per move. Adams proved this could be done on the go board (19 by 19) and possibly on a board as small as 16 by 16. The most surprising letter was from Jerry Butters, who is working for his doctorate in economics at the University of Chicago. Butters found an elegant procedure for trapping a knight with just two quads per move. His 13-page proof requires a board of side 4,500. This board can be reduced considerably, but at present there are only conjectures on the minimum-size board. I have urged Butters to write up his proof for a mathematics journal and shall report here if he does so.

25 years ago, Bertrand Russell said that governments should have a third primary aim after security and justice. It is conservation—conservation of the earth's natural resources.



## Welcome to the club, Bertrand Russell

Scientist, mathematician, philosopher, writer—and conservationist. We have an idea that if Bertrand Russell's long life had lasted even longer, today he could well be a member of the Sierra Club. Most certainly he would agree with our principles, which he recognized full well a quarter of a century ago.

Russell understood the limitations of natural resources. He understood this at a time when our resources seemed infinite. In those years, conservation was generally regarded as a dream, but to Russell it was a necessity.

The Sierra Club was formed in 1892 to conserve and protect the wilderness that man had been subduing for centuries. Our focus now is the wholeness of the habitat for mankind and for all living things. That is our purpose today—developing an ethic to make the world fit for living.

The Sierra Club works in a tradition of strong, decisive action to achieve such a world. We work in realistic ways. We lobby effectively for sound legislation. We take legal action to enforce it. We inform and educate. And we ask for expertise from people who understand the

principle of conserving the natural values that sustain life itself, our soils, our oceans and estuaries, our air and water. We want people who share our goal of protecting the biological and physical foundations of living.

As a reader of this publication, you are likely to be one of those people.

We would welcome you to the Club.

Sierra Club  
1050 Mills Tower  
San Francisco, California 94104

I wish to participate with the Sierra Club in achieving its objectives. Enclosed is my check for \$20 to cover \$15 annual dues (includes subscription to Sierra Club Bulletin), and \$5 admission fee.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Please send more information.

# Sierra Club

# Microbial Iron Metabolism

A Comprehensive Treatise

Edited by **J. B. NEILANDS**  
*Department of Biochemistry  
University of California, Berkeley*

July 1974, 616 pp., \$42.00  
ISBN: 0-12-515250-7

If all the iron in the human body were concentrated, it would weigh no more than a small nail. And yet, this seemingly insignificant amount of a most common element is involved in biological reactions which are absolutely crucial to life, e.g., the transfer of electrons at redox potentials below and above the pyridine nucleotides, the transport of oxygen, the reduction of O<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>, the reduction of ribotides to deoxyribotides for the synthesis of DNA, and the metabolism of inorganic nitrogen compounds.

This volume offers a comprehensive treatment of the subject of microbial iron metabolism — a field that has recorded major advances in recent years. Containing articles by investigators from a wide range of view-points, it gives detailed coverage to topics such as iron transport and storage, the cytochromes, nitrogenase, hydrogenase, iron sulfur proteins, glutamate synthase, hydroperoxidases, oxygenases, and the general role of iron in microbial physiology. It also contains practical information that relates basic knowledge in microbial iron metabolism to problems in clinical medicine and metal corrosion.

MICROBIAL IRON METABOLISM will provide an invaluable source of fact and theory for biochemists, microbiologists, physiologists, hematologists, nutritionists, molecular biologists, biocoordination chemists, and agricultural scientists. It is certainly a volume that points the way to future research.

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