

RUSSELL SOCIETY NEWS

No. 19

August 1978

- (1) The 1978 Annual Meeting, at McMaster (2,49,50). Neilands at Nobel Symposium (12). BR as sociologist (15,47). Herbert Stahl's tribulations (45). Paul Edwards accepts (28). Time to vote (39,52a). Index (51). An asterisk in the left column indicates a request.

1978 ANNUAL MEETING

- (2) The Annual Meeting, at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, May 19-21, 1978, proved to be highly satisfying. To tell it quickly: we discussed ERS business, saw 4 BR movies, heard 5 papers on BR, had a banquet, heard a symphony, and enjoyed the occasion generally. And, if you will forgive a bit of self-praise, we will quote from a letter HERB VOGT wrote later, after he had attended his first ERS meeting, at McMaster: "The best part was to learn how nice everyone was."
- The physical facilities were splendid. We had a large private auditorium (with movie projection booth, complete with operator), and a private dining room, all in the pleasant surroundings of the attractive McMaster campus.
- (2a) Two sets of minutes are part of this issue: (a) minutes of the meeting of Members (50), and (b) minutes of the meeting of Directors (49). They tell the story of what happened. We suggest you read them at this point, since the following are details that supplement the minutes:
- . Dr. William Ready, University Librarian, was the moving force behind the acquisition of the Russell Archives by McMaster. He persuaded the Canada Council to provide \$110,000, and Cyrus Eaton \$25,000, toward the original purchase of the Archives.
 - . For Joy Corbett's recollections of Beacon Hill School, see N113-23. She is now Joy Corbett Ray.
 - . In mid-afternoon Saturday, the meeting moved from our auditorium to the Russell Archives. Here we looked at the enormous collection of books and articles by and about BR, listened to tapes, and saw the Archives' most recent important acquisition: BR's own library, desk, and chair. Then followed the Red Hackle Hour, with genuine Red Hackle (unlike last year, when we were offered a mere substitute.)
 - . Saturday evening's banquet — quite a good one — was followed by a playing of Graham Whettam's Symphony Against Fear (N115-14,46). The tape that was played was a copy made by WARREN SMITH from a tape that East German Radio had been kind enough to provide. The original East German tape is being preserved for some possible future use.
 - . An interesting detail in GLADYS LEITHAUSER's paper on BR's interest in the Faustian theme is the name BR chose for the leading character in his early try at fiction, "The Perplexities of John Forstice." Forstice sounds remarkably similar to Faustus.
 - . The ERS Library is acquiring copies (or abstracts) of the papers presented at the Meeting, which may, of course, be borrowed.
- (2b) Officers were elected at the Directors' Meeting (49g) for one-year terms starting 1/1/79, as follows: Chairman, Peter Cranford; President, Robert Davis; Vice-President, Warren Allen Smith; Treasurer, Stephen J. Reinhardt; Secretary, Donald W. Jackanicz.
- (2c) 21 ERS members attended — approximately 10% of the membership, and about the same number as last year: DONG-IN BAE, KEN BLACKWELL, PETER CRANFORD, JIM CURTIS, BOB DAVIS, LESTER DENONN, LEE EISLER, MARTIN GARSTENS, MC KENZIE GOODRICH, ED HOPKINS, DON JACKANICZ, GLADYS LEITHAUSER, DAN MC DONALD, IBRAHIM NAJJAR*, JACK PITT, RAYMOND PLANT, STEVE REINHARDT, HARRY RUJA, WARREN SMITH CARL SPADONI*, HERB VOGT. (*became members at the Meeting.)
- An equal number of non-members, some of them McMaster students or staff members, attended one or more events (two attended only the banquet): Catherine Beattie, Kandriin Blackwell, Andrew Brink, Grant Corbett, Earl Darlington, Bess Denon, Jessie Edwards, Helen Garstens, Louis Greenspan, Nicholas Griffin, Barbara Hardt, David Harley, Joseph Harley, Mrs. J. P. Harley, Lourdes Harley, Diane Kerss, Duncan Martin, Margaret Martin, Joy Corbett Ray, Mr. and Mrs. George Willie.
- (2d) A final thought about attendance: Dong-In Bae travelled all the way from West Germany to Hamilton to be with us. We hope more of you will be with us next year. We feel sure that cost is what keeps attendance down. How about starting now to put aside a few dollars a week — Christmas Club fashion — so you can come to the next Meeting?

NEXT ANNUAL MEETING (1979)

- (3) Where and when shall we meet in 1979? At the 1978 Meeting, the time and place of the 1979 Meeting was discussed. The general feeling seemed to be that it should be in the East, and that the members should vote on the precise location, and on the time.
- The following cities were mentioned, and are now candidates for 1979: Boston, Chicago, Hamilton (McMaster), New York, Philadelphia, Washington. Some thought we should not go to Chicago if ERA has not been passed.

- * If you think you may attend in 1979, please vote for the city you prefer, using the ballot (53b). Some members seemed to want to return to Hamilton in 1979. Hamilton has certain advantages: the Archives are there; the physical facilities are the best we've had and could hardly be improved on; and it may be possible to schedule our Meeting during the nearby Stratford Festival, and if so, we would have the option of seeing some Shakespeare either before or after the ERS Meeting. We do not yet have the dates of the 1979 Stratford Festival, but they will probably be the same as in 1978: June 5 to October 14.

As to time, it will be a Friday-evening-through-Sunday weekend. Please indicate (on the ballot) the month you prefer (1st choice, 2nd choice). If any particular weekend is impossible for you, please say so on the ballot.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

(4) Chairman Peter G. Cranford reports:

I have been in communication with Dora Russell and John Sutcliffe in connection with their formally establishing a British ERS. The Earl Russell has stimulated the idea and Mrs. Russell has contacted Peter Cadogan, a former prominent member of the CTE of 100, and ER's good friend, Michael Scott. As things stand, we will meet in London sometime in August.

The Earl Russell and Dora Russell have written a joint letter to the Master of Trinity investigating the possibility of placing a suitable memorial there. Dora reports, "There is a plaque for Bertie and some of his work is on show in their library." She is also investigating to see if Peter Shore (Environment) has managed to save the terrace of houses in Sydney Street, Chelsea. The Russells lived in one of these and from there fought three elections and Dora started the birth control campaign. No doubt the British group will begin raising funds for placing a bust of ER somewhere. She has suggested Red Lion Square, facing the Conway Hall "which was sacred to freethinkers."

Dora has two books in progress. She had originally written one but now plans to divide it so as to deal separately with the Beacon Hill School and her autobiography. She is quite active running her house and garden at Carn Voel, Penzance. If Dora had not undertaken the round-the-clock nursing of BR when he was stricken in China and barely survived, more than 50 years ago, his literary output would have consisted of about 15 books instead of some 70 — not to speak of all his other achievements of the years between 1920 and his death in 1970.

(5) President Robert K. Davis reports:

The highlight of the ERS year is always the Annual Meeting, and this year's was no exception. Most of the major news will be contained elsewhere in RSN19. I would like to poll you on a few issues; your responses will help us develop future plans. Please mark the questionnaire portion of the ballot (53c).

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(6) Applied Philosophy Committee. See (49i).

(7) Audio-Visual Committee (Warren Allen Smith, Chairperson). See (49e).

(8) Finance Committee (Peter G. Cranford, Chairperson). See (50a,c; 49c,f).

(9) Library Committee (Donald W. Jackanicz, Chairperson). See (47,50d).

(10) Membership Committee (Lee Eisler, Chairperson, Beverly Smith, Co-Chairperson). See (49b,50b).

(11) Scholarship Awards Committee (Jack Pitt, Chairperson). See (50e,49d).

(12) Science Committee (J.B. Neilands, Chairperson):

Joe Neilands will be one of the speakers at a Nobel Symposium — at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, August 20-25 — on "Ethics for Science Policy". Among the topics on the agenda: ethical dilemmas in weapons development; priorities and control in the organization of research, from the points of view of society, of the scientist, and of the scientific community; the information problem in science. Joe will speak on the scientist's responsibility to communicate with those outside the scientific community.

SHORT & SWEET

- (13) BR describes hell. "Hell is a place where the motorists are French, the policemen are German, and the cooks are English."
From Lester Denonn's notes for his talk at the BRS Meeting at McMaster University, 5/20/78. He had come across the quotation in Edwards' The New Dictionary of Thought, a book in his extensive BR library.
-

BR QUOTED

- (14) Arnold Beichman, in a review of Arthur Koestler's latest book, Janus: A Summing Up (in the Boston Globe) writes:
Koestler, who shares Freud's gloomy outlook for mankind, has some hope. It's all reminiscent of Bertrand Russell, who once said that "we must proceed in the spirit of unyielding despair."
-

ASSESSMENTS OF BR

- (15) BR's sociological insights were well ahead of the sociologists, according to Sociologist JIM MCKEOWN. His article, "Russell as Precursor of Social Changes"(46), tells us that sociologists could have learned a lot from Russell — and no doubt still can. Jim wrote this paper especially for RSN.

* * * * *

First Peter Cranford wrote about BR as psychologist. Now Jim McKeown has written about BR as sociologist. We hope that people in other fields will write about BR in their fields (history, political science, religion, education, etc.)

- (16) "Bertrand Russell's 'Anti-Semitism'", an abstract of the paper that HARRY RUJA presented at McMaster on 5/21/78, is included in this issue (48).
-

PROMOTING BR/BRS

- (17) Still more requests from psychologists. There have been 204 requests (as of 7/18/78) for Peter Cranford's paper, "Bertrand Russell's Relevance to Psychology." The 5-page paper is offered free to readers of the APA MONITOR and THE PRIVATE PRACTITIONER. The offer is made in the MONITOR — which is published by the American Psychological Association — by means of a small ad which runs in every issue for a year. The offer in THE PRIVATE PRACTITIONER — published by The American Society of Psychologists in Private Practice — is made through an item in the editorial columns.
-

PHILOSOPHY

- (18) John Sutcliffe writes (4/30/78):

I was most interested in Leonard Cleavelin's remarks on Peter's "applied philosophy" (RSN18-21). I agree that an "applied philosophy" is needed but this does not imply it has to be a religious, moral or mystical one. It is a modern superstition of some philosophers that the irrational can be preserved by unpacking logic, on the one hand, from dealing with facts on the other, while retaining religion, morality and mysticism in some arbitrary meta-physical void independent of the other two. Without any basis in logic or fact, any such speculation is a sheer waste of time...

The time has come, I believe, to abstract from philosophy a new "science" derived from the lessons of logical analysis pioneered by Russell and continued by such philosophers as Karl Popper. It would be a science involving a comparative analysis of normative belief systems, whether any one of them fulfills or not the needs and desire of those it claims to serve, and whether the beliefs offer any genuine factual understanding of their condition and the world of which it is a part. I have attempted to construct such an analysis which I have called "ismology" and have employed it in turn as the foundation for a "practical sociology". Both are developments of themes in BR's work although I do not claim they are the only interpretations possible. I have taken the liberty of enclosing

two papers on these subjects which explain in more detail what I might term an "applied philosophy". An example of where this would be useful is in dealing with the invasion of "pseudo-science" a la Boyce Rensberger's piece (RSN18-20).

Another example of this kind of thinking is to be found in RSN18-10, Osmosis, which involves a kind of sentimental reductionism in those unprepared to face a disagreeable fact. Mr. Thrapp's use of BR's quote as exemplifying Christianity is a falsehood in complete disregard of the bloody history which accompanies this "faith". It reminds me of a debate I once had with a clergyman who assured me all Christians were simply members of the same Catholic family. When I pointed out that by the same token all Christians were really Jews, he wanted to change the subject.

John's 2 papers — "Isomology" (2 pages) and "Psychology, Suggestion, and Influence" (8 pages) — as well as his letter of 4/30/78 from which we have quoted can be borrowed from Don Jackanicz, ERS Library, 3802 N. Kenneth Avenue, Chicago, IL 60641.

RELIGION AND ITS ADVERSARIES

(19)

This article appeared in The New York Times Review of the Week, 5/14/78, p.20. We're sorry we had to cut off part of Ms. O'Hair's head; we like what goes on in her head. For more on adversaries of religion, see (43) and (44).

Discussion Is Out, Only Experience Counts

Atheism Survives, But Debate Is Dead

By KENNETH A. BRIGGS

The legendary "village atheist," who once symbolized the tough-minded tradition of dissent from religion, is fading from American folklore as the result of changing cultural patterns which have reduced public debate on such issues as the existence of God.

The career of the atheist propagandist Madalyn Murray O'Hair provides an example. Two decades ago, she was the subject of passionate controversy for her attacks on religion. Now, though she has established a center for atheism in Texas, she attracts little serious attention. Recently, she toured the South debating with Bob Harrington, known as the "chaplain of Bourbon Street." The trip resembled a histrionic roadshow more than an intellectual contest.

Nor is the opposite pole of the debate, once typified by a weekly television program in which Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen used logic and a blackboard to try to convince his audience of the truth of Christian claims, any more visible. Perhaps in their heydays Bishop Sheen and Mrs. O'Hair were the last representatives of the robust rationalism that both justified medieval theologians, who confidently proved propositions about God, and nourished the illustrious American infidel, Robert G. Ingersoll, who drew huge lecture fees in the 19th century for proving God's nonexistence.

Talk about God has not entirely vanished from the public forum, but the terms of the discussion have changed; as private, evangelical religion has become the dominant religious force, its language has emphasized direct "testimony" rather than rationalistic approaches. "Discussion has shifted from the head to the heart," says Dr. Jonathan Z. Smith, dean of undergraduate studies at the University of Chicago and a professor of religion. Courses which approach theology from a personal and autobiographical standpoint "are the hottest thing in religious studies," Dr. Smith notes, adding that "a great deal of this approach doesn't lend itself to propositional thinking."

Among the explanations offered for the change is diminished confidence in the power of reason to lead to truth. "There is not the assumption that out of philosophical debate you can find answers or unveil God,"



Ed Malick

Madalyn Murray O'Hair

said the Rev. Richard Unsworth, the chaplain at Smith College. "The whole development of existential thought has much to do with it."

The loss of the leading theological "giants" in the past decade has been another factor. Paul Tillich and Reinhold Niebuhr, who generated intellectual challenge for religious questions, died during this period and there have been no comparable replacements.

Another factor cited is ignorance; students may be less equipped than formerly to carry on religious discussion. A growing number have had little or no religious training and are therefore not in possession of the terminology and basic theological concepts that allowed previous generations to discuss these subjects.

In the past, college students were expected to question the religion of their upbringing. But the growing numbers who now arrive with no spiritual background means that many come to religion first in their college years, usually through a personal experience.

Still another element in the university setting is the drift toward greater religious pluralism. "There is a sense among students that it's okay to differ on these issues," says Mr. Unsworth. "In the 50's we didn't understand how dominated we really were by the need for conformity."

Compared with that decade, the present time is marked not just by increasing secularism and a tendency toward unbelief, but by what the Rev. Claude Evans of Southern Methodist University describes as an increasing polarity between fundamentalist Christianity and a rising number of people who simply

"don't care." Like many others, Mr. Evans believes that public discourse on religious questions has deteriorated largely because, as he says, "anti-intellectual attitudes have taken over the culture." "Most people are not aware of modern, critical methods of Biblical scholarship, nor have they read theologians who really grapple with vital issues," he says.

Instead, he says, the turn toward fundamentalism supplies easy answers and largely rejects modern findings. And beyond the religious community, belief tends to be identified with fundamentalist views. The result is a diminution of thoughtful exchange of viewpoints.

Robert McAfee Brown, professor at Union Theological Seminary, acknowledges that philosophical approaches "are not very high on peoples' agenda," but asserts that the "moral anguish" generated by experiences such as the holocaust has caused some people to look for religious answers to questions.

In the face of enormous tragedy, Professor Brown says, many ask "If there is a God, is He some kind of a moral monster to be permitting this? — this is the way in which the real question gets posed."

The God-is-dead movement passed quickly a decade ago, repudiated by many believers and dismissed as fanciful by many others. What remained after the fad was the fact that, if nothing more, it had signified the emergence of an era in which God would not be spoken about in the same way, if at all.

Kenneth A. Briggs is religion editor of The New York Times.

RATIONALITY

Also from The New York Times Review of the Week, of 7/2/78, p.14:

Note from a Universe-Watcher: 'We Are the Newest, the Youngest And the Brightest Thing Around.'

By Lewis Thomas

Somewhere, on some remote planet set at precisely the right distance from a star of just the right magnitude and right temperature, on the other side of our galaxy, there is at this moment a committee nearing the end of a year-long study of our own tiny, provincial solar system. The intelligent beings of that place are putting their signatures (numbers of some sort, no doubt) to a paper which asserts, with finality, that life is out of the question here and the place is not worth an expedition. Their instruments have detected the presence of that most lethal of all gases, oxygen, and that is the end of that. They had planned to come, bringing along mobile factories for manufacturing life-giving ammonia, but what's the use of risking strangulation.

The only part of this scenario that I really believe in is that committee. I take it as an article of faith that this is the most fundamental aspect of nature that we know about. If you are going to go looking for evidences of life on other celestial bodies, you need special instruments with delicate sensors for detecting the presence of committees. If there is life there, you will find consortia, collaborating groups, working parties, all over the place.

At least this is true for our kind of life. Mars, from the look we've had at it thus far, is a horrifying place. It is, by all appearances, stone dead. It is surely the deadest place any of us have ever seen, and it is hard to look at without wincing. Come to think of it, it is probably the only really dead place of any size we've ever caught a close glimpse of, and the near view is incredibly sad.

Or maybe there is life on Mars, and we've simply missed it so far. The innumerable consultants orbiting around NASA are confounded, just now, by intense arguments, highly technical, over this point. Could there be an island of life at the bottom of one of the Martian ravines? Shouldn't we set down fleets of wheeled vehicles on various parts of the surface, deployed to nose about from place to place, in and out of deep crevices, turning over rocks, sniffing for life? Maybe there is a single spot, just one, where living organisms are holed up.

Maybe so, but if so it would be the strangest thing of all, absolutely incomprehensible. For we are not familiar with this kind of living. We do not have solitary, isolated creatures. It is beyond our imagination to conceive of a single form of life that exists alone and independent, unattached to other forms.

If you dropped a vehicle, or a billion vehicles for that matter, on our planet you might be able to find one or two

lifeless spots, but only if you took very small samples. There are living cells in our hottest deserts and at the tops of our coldest mountains. Even in the ancient frozen rocks recently dug out in Antarctica there are endolithic organisms tucked up comfortably in porous spaces beneath the rock face, as much alive as the petunia in the florist window.

If you did find a single form of life on Mars, in a single place, how would you go about explaining it? The technical term for this arrangement is a "closed ecosystem," and there is the puzzle. We do not have closed ecosystems here, at all. The only closed ecosystem we know about is the earth itself, and even here the term has to be expanded to include the sun as part of the system, and Lord knows what sorts of essential minerals that have drifted onto our surface from outside, at one time or another long ago.

Everything here is alive thanks to the living of everything else. All the forms of life are connected. This is what I meant in proposing the committee as the basis of terrestrial life. The most centrally placed committee, carrying the greatest responsibility, more deeply involved in keeping the whole system running than any other body, or any other working part of the earth's whole body, is the vast community of prokaryotic microbes. Without them, for starters, we would never have had enough oxygen to go around, nor could we have found and fixed the nitrogen for making enzymes, nor could we recycle the solid matter of life for new generations.

The technical definition of a system, as summarized in a recent symposium, is as follows: A system is "a structure of interacting, intercommunicating components that, as a group, act or operate individually and jointly to achieve a common goal through the concerted activity of the individual parts." This is, of course, a completely satisfactory definition of the earth, except maybe for that last part about a common goal. What on earth is our common goal? How did we ever get mixed up in a place like this?

This is the greatest embarrassment for our species. Some of us simply write it off by announcing that our situation is absurd, that the whole place makes no sense, and that our responsibilities are therefore to ourselves alone. And yet, there it is; we are components in a dense, fantastically complicated system of life, we are enmeshed in the interliving, and we really don't know what we're up to.

The earth holds together, its tissues cohere, and it has the look of a structure that really would make comprehensible sense if only we knew enough about it. From a little way off, photographed from the moon, it seems to be

a kind of organism. Looked at over geologic time, it is plainly in the process of developing, like an enormous embryo. It is, for all its stupendous size and the numberless units and infinite variety of its life forms, coherent. Every tissue is linked for its viability to every other tissue; it gets along by symbiosis, and the invention of new modes of symbiotic coupling is a fundamental process in its embryogenesis. We have no rules for the evolution of this kind of life. We have learned a lot, and in some biomathematical detail, about the laws governing the evolution of individual species on the earth, but no Darwin has yet emerged to take account of the orderly, coordinated growth and differentiation of the whole astonishing system, much less its seemingly permanent survival. It makes an interesting problem: How do mechanisms that seem to be governed entirely by chance and randomness bring into existence new species which fit so neatly and precisely, and usefully, as though they were the cells of an organism? This is a wonderful puzzle.

And now we have swarmed like bees over the whole surface, changing everything, meddling with all the other parts, making believe we are in charge, risking the survival of the entire magnificent creature.

You could forgive us, or excuse us anyway, on grounds of ignorance, and at least it can be said for us that we are, at long last, becoming aware of that. In no other century of our brief existence have human beings learned so deeply, and so painfully, the extent and depth of their ignorance about nature. We are beginning to confront this, and trying to do something about it with science, and this may save us all if we are clever enough, and lucky enough. But we are starting almost from scratch, and we have a long, long way to go.

Mind you, I do not wish to downgrade us; I believe fervently in our species and have no patience with the current fashion of running down the human being as a useful part of nature. On the contrary, we are a spectacular, splendid manifestation of life. We have language and can build metaphors as skillfully and precisely as ribosomes make proteins. We have affection. We have genes for usefulness, and usefulness is about as close to a "common goal" for all of nature as I can guess at. And finally, and perhaps best of all, we have music. Any species capable of producing, at this earliest, juvenile stage of its development — almost instantly after emerging on the earth by any evolutionary standard of time — the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, cannot be all bad. We ought to be able to feel more secure for our future, with Bach at our elbow.

But security is the last thing we feel entitled to feel. We are, perhaps uniquely among the earth's creatures, the worrying animal. We worry away our lives, fearing the future, discontent with the present, unable to take in the idea of dying, unable to sit still. We deserve a better press, in my view. We have always had a strong hunch about our origin, which does us credit; from the oldest language we know, the Indo-European tongue, we took the word from earth — *DHGHM* — and turned it into "Human"; "Humble" too, which does us more credit. We are by all odds the most persistently and obsessively social of all species, more dependent on each other than the famous social insects, and really, when you look at us, infinitely more imaginative and deft at social living. We are good at this; it is the way we have built all our cultures and the literature of our civilizations. We have high expectations and set high standards for our social behavior, and when we fail at it and endanger the species — as we have done several times in this century — the strongest words we can find to condemn ourselves and our behavior are the telling words inhuman and inhumanity.

There is nothing at all absurd about the human condition. We matter. It seems to me a good guess, hazarded by a good many people who have thought about it, that we may be engaged in the formation of something like a mind for the life of this planet. If this is so, we are still at the most primitive stage, still fumbling with language and thinking, but infinitely capacitated for the future. Looked at this way, it is remarkable that we've come as far as we have in so short a period, really no time at all as geologists measure time. We are the newest, the youngest, and the brightest thing around.

I hope we will keep on with science, now that we've discovered how to use the method. We used to think we could find all the meaning we needed by making up stories, or by reasoning, but we have run out of facts to reason with and most of the stories no longer ring true. We need to know more about ourselves, and about all the rest of nature. We need science for this, more and better science, not for its technology, not for comfort, not even for health or longevity, but for the hope of wisdom, somewhere ahead.

Lewis Thomas, M.D., author of "The Lives of a Cell: Notes of a Biology Watcher," is president of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. These remarks were delivered at the commencement exercises of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

COMMENT

(21) Why Jacqueline experiences a certain sadness:

It is with very mixed feelings and a certain sadness that I read the newspaper clipping (The Spectator, May 5, 1978) reproduced in the Bulletin just received: "Russell Library Arrives at Mac." In a way, I suppose it will be wonderful for McMaster University to possess Lord Russell's library, as well as the desk and chair where Russell worked, even his "floral armchair"...but what about England, what about Wales? Does not he, do not his things really belong there, on the other continent, in the old culture and the Old World that produced him? I guess I am a sentimental fool about these things, being a transplanted "Frenchman" myself, with constant longings for my country, and I am the stupid type who cried when the "Yanks" purchased London Bridge to put it over the Colorado River... The end of an era, even the end of a song...

Although the handsome sum paid for the purchase, and, most importantly, the reverence with which the scholars of B.R. at McMaster will treat his possessions, will justify this exile, I cannot help thinking, with sadness, that Old England was cheated, even if well-intendedly so. This "deportation" has a note of sacrilegiousness -- if you forgive the expression! -- somewhat like bringing Charles de Gaulle's tomb to the U.S.

I hope my comment is not misunderstood. It is indeed not intended as an insult to McMaster's archivists of B.R.'s works, whom, I am sure, will treat them with the utmost respect and give them a loving and reverential home, as indicated by the second paragraph of the clipping, mentioning Mr. Ken Blackwell watching the move "lovingly". It is just a certain sadness that I felt and had to communicate. I just hope that "my" B.R. (as I have called him to myself for years) would have approved.

We think BR would have approved this latest installment, since he approved the first installment to McMaster. Thank you, JACQUELINE BERTHON-PAYON, for expressing a thought that no doubt has occurred to many.

NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS

- (22) Leonard Cleavelin, philosophy major at Washington University, has been accepted as a candidate for an honors degree in his senior year. His thesis, in philosophy of law, will examine society's right to enforce its morality through the criminal code.
- (23) Albert Ellis is co-author (with William J. Knaus) of Overcoming Procrastination, advertised in The New York Times Book Review of 3/5/78. Softcover \$3.95 + 55¢ shipping, from Institute for Rational Living, Dept. B, 45 E. 65th St., NYC 10021
- (24) Corliss Lamont had an ad in The (Sunday) New York Times of 7/16/78 (Review of the Week, p.7) commemorating the centenary of the birth of John Masefield, Poet Laureate of England 1930-1967, whom he had known personally.
- (25) Herbert Stahl's tribulations are described in the Congressional Record, which is reproduced (45).
- (26) Ira L. Straus writes: "You may add to your list of oddball members that I am the Chairman of the Committee for Reunion with England and the author of its historic Declaration of Reunion, which activity has in large part been inspired by a line from BR (cited a couple of years ago in Russell) to the effect that the whole tragedy of modern nationalism began when Patrick Henry proclaimed death to be preferable to dependence on the British Crown. "More seriously, I have been working on Trotskyism and American ex-Trotskyism. BR seems to have had considerable personal interest, influence and connections in the latter, although the British publishing establishment at present seems closer to the believing Trotskyists than to the ex-Trotskyists. I look forward to whatever enlightenment I may be able to draw from the BR Archives on this subject."
- (27) Herb Vogt writes about the Annual Meeting: "The best part of our meeting in Hamilton was to learn how nice everyone was. It was fun to share talk and beer. I enjoyed being with Lester Denonn and his wife; for years I had owned a copy of The Wit and Wisdom of Bertrand Russell, which he edited. Dong-In Bae brought back recollections of my own stays in Korea ('55-'56) and West Germany ('59-'62). I borrowed the tape of Whettam's 'Symphony Contra Timore' and made my own duplicate. I like the music very much."

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

- (28) Paul Edwards. We are very pleased to report that Professor Paul Edwards has accepted an invitation to become an honorary member. He qualifies for honorary membership under Article II, Section 2 (III) of the BRS Bylaws. ("The nominee has made a distinctive contribution to some area of Russell scholarship.") Professor Edwards edited the volume, "Why I Am Not A Christian," a collection of BR's short pieces chiefly on religion, which also includes his own 40-page appendix, "How Bertrand Russell Was Prevented From Teaching at the College of the City of New York." In The Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Macmillan), the superb 8-volume set of which he was Editor-in-Chief, he wrote the sections on BR's Life and Social Theories, Ethics, and Critique of Religion. He is Professor of Philosophy at Brooklyn College CUNY. In his letter of acceptance, he graciously said, "Please let me know if I can be of some help to you."

The Bylaws require "approval by a two-thirds vote of the members voting", (Article II, Section 2)
Please vote, using the Ballot (Part 4), which is the last page of this issue.

(29)

NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to welcome these new members:

IRA N. BACHRACH/2229 Beach St./San Francisco, CA 94123
STEVE DAHLEY/265 Calusa Avenue/Citrus Springs, FL 32630
LUKE DONES/64 Linnaean St./Cambridge, MA 02138
RAY DONLEY III/5212-B Tahoe Trail/Austin, TX 78745
GEORGE DURAKOVICH/15722 Taft Lane, #1/Huntington Beach, CA 92649

RONALD EDWARDS/605 N.State St./Chicago, IL 60610
KATHLEEN FJERMEDAL/ 1130 20th St., #7/Santa Monica, CA 90403
JOHN GILSDORF/6270 Orchard Lane/ Cincinnati, OH 45213
ED HEDEMANN/123 Garfield Place/Brooklyn, NY 11215
WALTER M. HENRY/ 37 Park Drive/Silverbrook/Newark, DE 19713

DENISE K. HENRY/same address as Walter M. Henry
HUNTINGTON COLLEGE LIBRARY/Laurentian University of Sudbury/Sudbury, Ontario/ Canada P3E 2C6
JON R. JOST/3270 Lake Shore Drive/Chicago, IL 60657
DOUGLAS LAWSON/3316 Jones Bridge Road/ Chevy Chase, MD 20015
ALBERT LOZANO/ Box 1221/ APO New York, NY 09324

LESLIE MARTINKOVICS/Apt. 808/ 11200 Lockwood Drive/Silver Spring, MD 20901
C. MC DONOUGH/ original address in Wolfville changed; see (30) below
THES MEIJER/Box 93/Abbotsford, B.C./Canada V2S 4N8
IBRAHIM NAJJAR/Apt. 1603/46 Panorama Court/Rexdale, Ont./Canada M9V 4A4
JOHN PEGG/1983 McKinley/Eugene, OR 97405

KATHIE POWELL/10989 Bishwood Way/Columbia, MD 21044
CHRISTOPHER RIPPEL/11502 Rock Bass Court/Louisville, KY 40222
EDMUND ROBERTS, JR./950 Long Pond Road/Rochester, NY 14626
CAROL SMITH/10427 - 67th Avenue South/Seattle, WA 98178
CARL SPADONI/64 Sydenham St./Dundas, Ont./Canada L9H 2V2

JON SPRING/3488 Via Golondrina/Tucson, AZ 85716
IRA L. STRAUS/1215 Wertland St., Apt. B33/Charlottesville, VA 22903
DR. C. T. THOMAS/2048 Coniston Place/Charlotte, NC 28207
NORMAN WALKER/7353 S. Clyde Avenue/Chicago, IL 60649
BERNARD WEHLTE/946 Fairview Avenue, Apt. #8/Arcadia, CA 91006

OLIVE WILLIAMS/P.O.Box 5283/Augusta, GA 30906

(30)

ADDRESS CHANGES

'EMEKA CHUKWUJINDU, JR./13 Affa Street/Uwani - Enugu/Anambra State, Nigeria
ERIC CARLEN/Rt 2 7291 County N/Sun Prairie, WI 53590
E. JOHN DEHAVEN/P.O.Box 311/Wayzata, MN 55391
DENNIS J. DARLAND/Apt. 405/228 N. 12th/Lincoln, NE 68510
W. MC KENZIE GOODRICH/655 Congress St., #405/Portland, ME 04101

CROCKETT L. GRABBE/Dept. of Physics/U. of Tennessee/Knoxville, TN 37916
CHARLES GREEN/307 Montana Avenue, #301/Santa Monica, CA 90403
KEVIN GROVES/ "undeliverable," says PO
JOHN HALLU/John Jay Hall (Room 603)/Columbia University/New York, NY 10027
GARY JACOBS/P.O.Box 693/Cascade IA 52033

JOHN LA GRECA/3612 25 Avenue/Vernon, B.C./Canada V1T 1P3
C. MC DONOUGH/5100 Dudemaine #105/Montreal, Que./Canada H4J 1N8
HUGH MC VEIGH/311 State Street/Albany, NY 12210
RAYMOND PLANT/29 Undermount Avenue/Hamilton, Ont./Canada L8P 3Z7
J. FARRELL SMITH/Dept. of Philosophy/U. of Massachusetts/Boston, MA 02138

W. BRUCE TAYLOR/8103 Eastern Avenue #B-307/Silver Spring, MD 20910
P.K. TUCKER/P.O.Box 1537/North Platte, NE 69101
BERNARD L. WHEELER/P.O.Box 744/Anchorage, AK 99510

(31)

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

200. The BRS now has 200 paying members, as of July 1st, the largest number since we were founded in February 1974. To qualify for low postal rates (within the USA) that are available to non-profit organizations, we must mail a minimum of 200 pieces to points within the USA.

(32)

BULLETIN BOARD

For sale: Lester Denonn's 5000 volumes, which include what is possibly the largest collection of Russelliana in private hands. This remarkable library includes 327 books by BR or that contain some words by him; 1760 books about BR or in which he is referred to; various articles by BR; letters from BR and Lady R; magazine articles about BR, etc. etc., for a grand total of 3026 items by, or related in some way or other to, BR. Plus books in 60 other categories.

Lester is interested in finding a suitable buyer. A suitable buyer will (1) meet his price, and (2) provide a proper environment — such as a university — for the collection. His address is 135 Willow Street, Brooklyn, NY 11202.

FOR SALE

(33)

Members' stationery price increased. We've had to raise the price on members' stationery (NL16-30), chiefly because of the new postal rates. We've reduced the number of sheets per package, from 100 to 80, so that now the total package weighs slightly less than one pound, and therefore the postage is the same to all parts of the country. The price for 80 sheets is \$3.50 postpaid. A number of members have bought this new stationery, and like it.

(34)

Books from the BRS Library. Most of the following books are published by Spokesman Books or by Allen & Unwin. Prices are discounted, and include postage. Please pay when you order, from Don Jackanicz, BRS Library, 3802 N. Kenneth Avenue, Chicago, IL 60641. (H = hardbound, p = paperbound.)

- The Tamarisk Tree, Dora Russell. \$4.75.
- Bertrand Russell 1872-1970. 80¢.
- Essays on Socialist Humanism in Honour of the Centenary of Bertrand Russell, Ken Coates, ed. \$3.40.
- History of the World in Eptome, BR. 80¢.
- Icarus, or the Future of Science, BR. \$2.00.
- Justice in Wartime, BR. \$6.20.
- The Life of Bertrand Russell in Pictures and His Own Words, Christopher Farley and David Hodgson, ed. \$3.40.
- Mr. Wilson Speaks 'Frankly and Fearlessly' on Vietnam to Bertrand Russell.
- Problems of Knowledge and Freedom, Noam Chomsky. \$1.00.
- The Amberley Papers, BR with Patricia Russell, 2 v. \$14.00.
- Authority and the Individual, BR. \$2.65.
- Autobiography of BR. Complete in one volume. \$4.30.
- Autobiography of BR, 1872-1914. \$6.25.
- Autobiography of BR, 1914-1944. \$6.25.
- Bertrand Russell: An Introduction, Brian Carr, ed. \$8.25 h. \$4.30 p.
- Education and the Social Order, BR. \$3.25.
- Freedom and Organization, 1814-1914, BR. \$8.00.
- German Social Democracy, BR. \$4.30.
- Has Man a Future?, BR. \$1.75.
- Human Society in Ethics and Politics, BR. \$5.80.
- The Impact of Science on Society, BR. \$2.25.
- New Hopes for a Changing World, BR. \$4.00.
- An Outline of Philosophy, BR. \$9.60.
- Political Ideals, BR. \$2.75.
- Power: A New Social Analysis, BR. \$5.80.
- The Practice and Theory of Bolshevism, BR. \$3.90 h. \$2.75 p.
- Principles of Social Reconstruction, BR. \$4.95 h. \$1.75 p.
- The Problem of China, BR. \$5.80.
- Prospects of Industrial Civilization, BR with Dora Russell. \$4.30.
- Roads to Freedom: Socialism, Anarchism and Syndicalism, BR. \$5.80 h. \$3.25 p.
- Sceptical Essays, BR. \$6.75 h. \$3.25 p.
- Unarmed Victory, BR. \$3.50.
- Bertrand Russell: A Life, Herbert Gottschalk. \$1.00.

- British Philosophy in Mid-Century: A Cambridge Symposium. C. A. Mace, ed.
\$19.00.
- Bertrand Russell: The Passionate Sceptic, Alan Wood. \$1.30.
Papers presented at the 1976 BRS sessions at the American Philosophical Association (Eastern Division) annual convention. \$3.00.
Papers presented at the 1977 BRS APA annual convention. \$3.00.
-

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- (35) Movie mentions. DON JACKANICZ is seeking information about references to ER in 2 films:
(1) "The Best Man", a 1964 film, based on a play by Gore Vidal, about rival Presidential candidates -- played by Henry Fonda and Cliff Robertson -- and the lengths to which they will go in the hope of achieving success.
(2) "Taxi Driver", a relatively recent film.
Please forward any information to Don care of Russell Society News, address on Page 1 (bottom).
- (36) Anthony Flew. RONALD EDWARDS would like to know about a debate that involved ER and Anthony Flew. Please forward any information to Ron care of Russell Society News.
-

RECOMMENDED READING

- (37) "Letters from The Earth" by Mark Twain (Harper & Row's Perennial Library). A collection published posthumously. "One of the things our grade school teachers keep hidden from us," writes LEONARD CLEAVELIN, "is Twain's essentially humanistic views. In many selections, he exposes foibles and inconsistencies in Biblical religion and the then common morality of his contemporaries (which, I think, haven't changed much since then) with a wit and style reminiscent of Russell's. Especially recommended sections: 'Letters from The Earth', 'Letter to The Earth', and 'The Damned Human Race'."
-

FINANCES/CONTRIBUTIONS

- (38) Recent contributors. We thank the following members for their recent contributions: PETER CRANFORD, FRANCIE DIMITT, DON JACKANICZ, FRANK PAGE, and CHARLES HILL.
-

BRS BUSINESS

- (39) Voting time. Please vote. The last page of this issue consists of a ballot, listing the candidates. We are to elect Directors for 3-year terms, starting 1/1/79.
At the 1978 Annual Meeting, the members voted to increase the number of Directors from 15 to 24. Consequently we may now vote for 8 Directors per year instead of 5 as in the past.
The ballot lists 8 candidates, and we recommend that you vote for all 8. (There would have been more than 8 candidates if more had been nominated.) It is clear that all 8 candidates will be elected, because there are as many openings as there are candidates. You may therefore wonder why you should bother voting. Here is why:
When you vote, you indicate that you take an interest in BRS affairs. This, then, is an opportunity to show your interest, and we hope you will make use of it.
Here are a few facts about the 8 candidates:
PETER G. CRANFORD (Augusta, GA). Founder of the BRS; Chairman of the Board; formerly President; currently a Director. Clinical psychologist in private practice.
ROBERT K. (BOB) DAVIS (Hollywood, CA). Founding member; President, formerly Vice-President; currently a Director. Salesman; former teacher.
LEE EISLER (Coopersburg, PA). Founding member; Chairperson, Information Committee and Membership Committee; Editor, Russell Society News; currently a Director. Retired; former advertising writer and executive.
MARTIN GARSTENS (Silver Spring, MD). Founding member; Chairperson, Applied Philosophy Committee; currently a Director; leader, BRS local chapter (Washington area). Senior Fellow, Dept of Physics & Astronomy, U. of Maryland.
JAMES E. MC KEOWN (Kenosha, WI). Former Director; active in BRS local chapter (Chicago area); author of "Russell as Precursor of Social Changes" (46). Professor of Sociology, U. of Wisconsin -- Parkside.

HARRY RUJA (San Diego, CA). 4-year member; Russell scholar and bibliographer. Professional philosopher; member, Philosophy Department, San Diego State University.
 GARY SLEZAK (Chicago, IL). Founding member; Vice-President; leader, BRS local chapter (Chicago area); currently a Director. Playwright.
 BEVERLY C. (BEV) SMITH (Rochester, NY). Co-Chairperson, Membership Committee. Active in local groups, including "Prison Action Group", "Euthanasia Education Council", "Rochester Memorial Society".

"RUSSELL SOCIETY NEWS" MATTERS

- (40) Single-space, please, when you submit something for possible use in RSN. It saves space, and therefore money. And please check that the typeface is clean.
- (41) Smaller type. We are trying an experiment with this issue; the print is smaller. That lets us put about 65% more on a page. A 30-page issue (printed the old way) can now be done in about 18 pages. The saving on printing is considerable. There is also a worthwhile saving on postage. (3rd class postal rates have just gone up 40-60%.)
 Considering our finances, the new way is a big improvement. We hope you can manage to read the smaller type without too much difficulty. But this is an experiment. We invite your comments.
 * (The smaller print is achieved in this way: we use the same typewriter as in the past, but on 11 x 14 pages, and the printer reduces the pages to 8½ x 11. When we reproduce pages from other publications, as in (19) of this issue, they too are reduced in size.)

ABOUT OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

- (42) The BR Peace Foundation is investigating human rights in West Germany. This was written up in the Washington University student newspaper, "Student Life" (RSN18-49). Here is a somewhat more detailed account, from The New York Times (3/30/78):

Rights Tribunal Opens in Frankfurt

By JOHN VINOCCUR
 Special to The New York Times

FRANKFURT, West Germany, March 29—The third Bertrand Russell international tribunal began hearings today on alleged human rights violations in West Germany after its purpose was denounced by both the political leadership and leftist segments.

The self-appointed tribunal was described by Willy Brandt, the former Chancellor, as "an insulting and scandalous exercise." At the same time, a left-wing extremist group interrupted the tribunal's first session in a suburban auditorium and charged that it had deserted West Germany's "anti-imperialist resistance." The Russell tribunal, the extremists said, was guilty of focusing attention on people denied employment because of their political opinions, but had forgotten political prisoners jailed under antiterrorism laws.

'Radicals Decree' to Be Examined

The tribunal, established by Lord Russell, the British philosopher and mathematician who died in February 1970, first met as the War Crimes Tribunal in Stockholm in 1967 to consider alleged United States atrocities in Vietnam. It was convened again in 1973 to inquire into torture in Latin America.

The tribunal, which has 28 members, none of them Germans, will be hearing testimony through Sunday on what has

become known here as "Berufsverbot," the exclusion from public-sector jobs of people who are deemed disloyal to the Constitution. Although there are no official statistics, about 4,000 people, mainly leftists, are estimated to have been affected. The exclusion order, also known as the "radicals decree," was issued jointly by the Bonn Government and the state governments in 1972.

The jury includes Josephine Richardson, a Labor Party member of Britain's Parliament; Dr. Noel Browne, a former Minister of Health of the Irish Republic; Lucio Lombardo Radice, a member of the Italian Communist Party's central committee, and Elliot Taikeff, a New York lawyer, the only American on the panel.

Also selected for the jury was Otelo Saraiva de Carvalho, the Portuguese officer who was a central figure in the 1974 revolution and an abortive left-wing coup attempt. However, he was not allowed by Portuguese authorities to leave the country, a spokesman for the tribunal said.

Chinese Leave for U.S.

HONG KONG, March 29 (Reuters)—A delegation of the China International Travel Service left Peking today to visit the United States, according to Hsinhua, the official press agency.

Thank you, Don Jackanicz.

PERIODICALS RECEIVED

- (43) "Other Minds" is the newsletter of the Rationalist Humanist Association, Box 314, Station A, St. Joseph, MO 64503. The 6-page May 1978 issue gives 2 pages to quotes from J.S. Mill, T. H. Huxley, and Bertrand Russell. They will send you their newsletter on request.
- (44) "Humanist Quest for Truth", newsletter of the Colorado branch of the American Humanist Association and of the Freedom From Religion Foundation, Inc., is sent free on request. The May 1978 issue is 5 pages. Box 625, Brighton, CO 80601.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

- (45) Dr. Herbert A. Stahl's tribulations, as reported in the Congressional Record of 3/1/76:

S 2536

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

March 1, 1976

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

DR. HERBERT A. STAHL

Mr. HRUSKA. Mr. President, historians no doubt will look back upon this, the 20th century, with mixed feelings. On one hand, the past 75 years have witnessed the greatest technological and scientific advances since the first stirrings of recorded civilization. These great accomplishments should have heralded the dawn of the golden age of mankind. Unfortunately, this has not been the case for, in fact, the 20th century has contained some of history's most brutal examples of man's inhumanity to his fellow man.

The details of this century's first 75 years have been well documented. They have included war, genocide, massacres, the mass displacement and movement of countless millions of refugees. I would like to take the opportunity to record one small footnote to this history by relating the case of Dr. Herbert A. Stahl.

Dr. Stahl was born in 1907 in Pressburg—now called Bratislava—of what was then part of the Austrian-Hungary Empire. Bratislava is situated on the left bank of the river Danube, just 1 hour's drive from Vienna. Across the river, readily seen from the Castle of Bratislava, are a few tiny Austrian villages where most of Herbert Stahl's ancestors came from. On the western horizon, the bluish silhouette of the famed Vienna Woods are clearly discernible. He was a citizen of that empire until 1918 when in the wake of World War I the Hapsburgs were deposed and the modern Czechoslovakian state created.

After the establishment of the new state, Dr. Stahl became a Czechoslovakian citizen. During the census of 1928, however, the citizens of Czechoslovakia were required to register according to their mother language. For Dr. Stahl this meant that he had to register using the language also spoken in Vienna, that

is, the Germanic language. This was to have grave consequences in future years.

As the new state prospered and advanced, so did the fortunes of Dr. Stahl who in 1932 had graduated from the University of Prague and was now a scientist and a writer. A 1-year's sojourn in Berlin familiarized him with the model German research institutions, particularly as basic and applied research into physics are concerned. During the early 1930's Dr. Stahl busied himself as a free lance writer of articles some of which opposed dictatorship and advocated the concept of a United States of Europe. Later, he was to be a prolific writer publishing, among others, 16 professional essays, in Czech or Slovak language, centering upon the flagrant absence of applied and industrial research in Czechoslovakia. These were well received and recognition of his work resulted in an invitation to be listed in a Czechoslovak Interservice World Engineering Who's Who, published in Prague. In 1937, he coauthored a Jewish cultural encyclopedia entitled "Jews in German Cultural Sphere."

During all these years, Dr. Stahl proceeded in his favorite field of tube electronics centering on the production of neon light devices. In 1933, he became the licensee for a Jewish-owned company founded in Prague by a refugee friend from Berlin, and continued later in the neon department of a huge shoe concern in Zlín, Moravia, soon to be dismantled by the owners in a wise foreboding of the rapidly approaching apocalypse.

During this same prewar period Dr. Stahl was by his own initiative instrumental in advancing the concept of a central Czechoslovak Institute for Industrial Research. This productive activity, however, came to a halt as a result of a serious traffic accident in 1938, and the concurrent pre-Munich confusion in Czechoslovakia. As Dr. Stahl laid confined to a hospital bed, the German Army under the pretext of protecting the Ger-

man minority, marched into the Sudetenland. The rest is well known, within a short time Czechoslovakia was under total German domination, and the world once again was at war.

Recovering from his injuries, Dr. Stahl soon found that there were practically no professional opportunities whatsoever for reasonable work in prostrate, German-controlled, Czechoslovakia. He had now a third citizenship namely that of Slovakia—to become his last one in Europe. As this puppet state was almost totally an agricultural community, Dr. Stahl returned in 1939 to Berlin where he joined the staff of a leading chemical reference work conducting later active scientific research and development in tube electronics.

In 1943, Dr. Stahl left Berlin and went westward to Hanola near Frankfurt where he conducted similar work, his results being published after the war in Dutch, American, Swiss, and German journals. By now, he was married to a German girl who, as a result of that marriage, had lost her citizenship, to become also a Slovak citizen.

Thus was the situation in 1945 when Germany surrendered to the victorious allies.

The conclusion of World War II resulted in many changes upon the map of Europe. According to some historians, certain of these changes resulted from a deliberate effort on the part of the Allies to eliminate possible sources of future upheavals by moving various ethnic minorities from areas long regarded as their historic homeland to countries where they would be part of a predominant culture. Thus, along with other minority groups caught in the postwar maelstrom of millions of refugees were some 3 million Sudeten Germans who were expelled from their primeval homeland in Bohemia and Moravia. Expelled or not, others were to have their properties confiscated.

Dr. Stahl, who by this time was in Great Britain, had his sizable real estate holdings, including his home in Bratislava with its multilingual library confiscated by the authorities as German reparations. This happened despite the fact that neither he nor his forefathers had ever been citizens of Germany, but of the Danubian Monarchy referred to above. In so doing the Czech Government ignored his stalwart service to the nation in the prewar years, and the oppressing peril throughout the Nazi domination.

Like many other refugees, Dr. Stahl never returned to the land of his fathers. Instead, he came to the United States where he was able to secure a job at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Later, he was to work for Westinghouse and RCA in their electronic tube factories, being mostly engaged in governmental work. In 1957, 5 years after his arrival in this country, he became a citizen.

Since 1962, Dr. Stahl, who had become a senior physicist in optoelectronics, has worked at the Army's Night Vision Lab located at Fort Belvoir, Va.

This story has had a relatively happy ending for unlike millions of others who perished during the turbulent years of the 1930's and 1940's, Dr. Stahl survived, and was able to rebuild his life.

The issue of the moral and legal responsibilities of the Czechoslovak Government which so callously expelled its citizens, and expropriated huge masses of property, however, remains as a thorn in Czech-United States relations to this very day.

Herbert Stahl is a 4-year member of the BRS.

ORIGINAL PAPER

Russell As Precursor of Social Changes

by

James E. McKeown

Professor of Sociology

University of Wisconsin — Parkside

(46)

In his writings Bertrand Russell frequently demonstrated that he possessed sociological imagination, which C. Wright

Mills has defined as the ability to use information and reason "to achieve lucid summations of what is going on in the world."¹

Fond of taking the long view, Russell in Freedom and Organization (1934) attempted to trace the main causes of political changes in the period 1814-1914. Such changes appeared to rise from four sources: economic techniques, as feudalism, capitalism, and socialism; political theories, as legitimacy and democracy; important individuals, as Metternich and Bismarck; and chance or accident in which a rather unimportant occurrence has a great effect, as the minor political assassination that set off the chain of international exchanges that led to the First World War.²

At the time of the publication of Freedom and Organization, sociologists were generally aware that shifts in social values and behavior represent adjustments to more basic economic and political changes. The role played by the factor of chance, nevertheless, was to continue to be overlooked until after World War II when statistical analysis came into vogue. Interestingly, sociologists still do not know how to deal with the contribution of the important individual. It might be added that there is little likelihood that they will learn to do so as long as the majority of them still hold that there are no such things as individuals, only group members. While it is true that Thomas Carlyle over-emphasized the "great man theory of history", sociologists seem intent upon under-emphasizing it. Russell placed the important person in perspective, that is, midway between these two extremes.

In his classes at the University of Chicago after World War II Ernest Burgess regularly expressed the hope that sociology would become a predictive science. Yet as early as 1920 the Third Earl Russell was making forecasts regarding the future of the Russian Soviet experiment, whose methods he had found to be go rough, dangerous, and costly that they precluded the establishment of a "stable or desirable form of socialism".³ Hence there was to be no bright tomorrow; instead, there would be any one of three kinds of doomsdays. One would be the ultimate defeat of bolshevism by the forces of capitalism. Another would be the decisive victory of bolshevism resulting in a Napoleonic-like imperialistic regime with a complete absence of socialist ideals. While the first would be doomsday for bolshevism and the second would be doomsday for capitalism, the third would be characterized by a prolonged world war in which both would meet their doom. Here, too, "civilization would go under and all its manifestations."⁴ It would almost seem that Russell in 1920 had seen a horrible vision of atomic warfare a quarter of a century before it became a reality.

Some years ago American blacks began to discover identity and roots in the African heritage. Since then various other racial and ethnic groups have also engaged in heritage-questing, thereby creating a trend. Sociologists, of course, have noticed this trend and appropriately have raised their voices in praise of "cultural pluralism." More than sixty years ago, however, in 1917, cultural pluralism was not a trend. In Europe nationalism was at its height; and in America the "melting pot" concept had emerged. It was then that the famous World War I conscientious objector wrote in Political Ideals: "We do not want to lay down a pattern or type to which men of all sorts are to be made by some means or another to approximate. This is the idea of the impatient administrator."⁵

In the later 1960s political sociologists emerged with their principles of conflict and confrontation. This was roughly about twenty years after 1938 when ER's Power: A New Social Analysis appeared. In this work the concept of power was given a remarkably simple definition: "the production of intended effects."⁶ It was then refined into types: namely, priestly power, kingly power, revolutionary power, economic power, and brute force, which Russell calls "naked power."⁷ Power: A New Social Analysis would have been an excellent book for the young radicals who were exercising power in the late 60s to have read. The political sociologists would also have done well to have read it. Unfortunately few did. Anti-intellectualism and anti-elitism were widespread in both groups; and the Third Earl Russell was both intellectual and aristocratic.

It was also in the late 1960's that departments of sociology at American universities were centers of agitation against the Viet Nam War. In the early 1960's, however, campuses had been quiet. Faith in the rightness of government policy, a faith that had emerged as a welcome spark of light in the great economic depression of the 1930's and had glowed ardently during World War II, had not yet burned out. In those early 1960's, nevertheless, Bertrand Russell had learned about the more than 16,000 American military advisors in Viet Nam and warned about the disastrous consequences that would result from escalation of the conflict.⁸ He attempted to promote sentiment against this American involvement but found little support in England and on the continent.⁹ Complacency was as great there as it was in America.

A Treatise on Russell's social views, of course, must include some references to Marriage and Morals, which appeared in 1929 and gave him the reputation that led to his being barred from lecturing at the College of the City of New York and at Columbia University. It might be added, nevertheless, that he was quite a visiting celebrity at the University of Chicago. Marriage and Morals contained predictions of greater liberation of women and greater reliance both upon trial marriage and divorce as hedges against unhappiness in marriage.¹⁰ Now in the late 1970's these predictions have proven rather accurate. On the other hand, ER predicted that as the old morality declined so would prostitution, and in doing so tarnished his record as a forecaster. He greatly underestimated the resilience of the "world's oldest profession."¹¹

Bertrand Russell was interested in things sociological. He probably should have been a sociologist; and despite his early training in philosophy he could have become a sociologist. The doors of sociology were wide open not just in the nineteenth century, but well into the twentieth persons from many other fields walked through them. The Frenchman August Comte, said to be the founder of sociology, had been a mathematician, the Englishman Herbert Spencer an engineer, and the German Georg Simmel a philosopher. William Sumner, who founded the sociology department at Yale, was a minister, while Lester Ward, the first head of sociology at Brown University, was a geologist. Then too, there was Robert Park, a former journalist, who ushered in the "golden age of sociology" at the University of Chicago. All these came to sociology; but why didn't Russell? The answer undoubtedly is that Russell was so well established as a philosopher, celebrity, and controversial figure that his program was full. He had neither the time nor the need to fraternize with sociologists.

Notes

1. Mills, C. Wright, The Sociological Imagination, New York: Grove Press, Inc. 1959, p. 5.
2. Russell, Bertrand, Freedom and Organization - 1814-1914, London: George Allen and Unwin Ltd., pp.7-8.
3. Russell, Bertrand, The Practice and Theory of Bolshevism, London: George Allen and Unwin Ltd., p. 8.
4. Ibid., p. 8.
5. Russell, Bertrand, Political Ideals, New York: Simon and Schuster, 1964, p. 10. Original book was written in 1917.
6. Russell, Bertrand, Power: A New Social Analysis, London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 1938, p. 35.
7. Ibid., p. 50, 75, 41, 123, 39-40.
8. Clark, Ronald W., The Life of Bertrand Russell, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1976, p. 615-616.
9. Ibid., pp. 625-628.
10. Russell, Bertrand, Marriage and Morals, New York: Liveright Publishing Corporation, 1929, pp. 78-92, 156-167, 221-239.
11. Ibid., pp. 154-155.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES (CONTINUED)

Library Committee (Don Jackanicz, Chairperson):

Elsewhere in these pages are reports on our successful 1978 annual meeting. The Library had its own modest role over those three days--films were shown, a tape recording of music was presented, photographs were on display, complimentary materials were distributed, books were sold. It is hoped that the Library fulfilled its promise at least in part by making available such materials within various media.

As part of the Library report given at Hamilton, it was noted that recent postal increases as well as the continuing inflationary spiral required a reevaluation of the Library's prices for sale items and charges for borrowed items. Thus, it has been decided to add a few cents to the prices of books and other materials offered for sale. The most recent issue of RSN should be consulted for current prices. Also, it was agreed that in addition to paying for postage, and in certain cases (e.g. films) deposits and rental fees, borrowers will pay a nominal fee directed toward meeting the cost of Library expenses. As of August 1, 1978, therefore, a 25¢ borrowing fee will be requested for most items borrowed from the Library. As well, the cost for renting a film has been increased to \$15 plus a refundable \$25.00 deposit. Except for films and certain other materials of considerable value whose fees must be paid in advance of shipment, borrowers will be informed of the exact fee involved when materials are mailed to them; payment should be made when returning what has been borrowed. It is hoped that these price increases will not be misunderstood or discourage borrowing and sales. It should be remembered that for over a year, except for films, we have offered items for members' borrowing at only the cost of postage. Following this experimental period it is time to draw the conclusion that small fees must be charged to insure the proper functioning of the Library. With the sales program, on the other hand, price increases are to be expected from time to time; but members will recall that these books are available at discounted prices. Should any member have comments to offer concerning this announcement of increased prices and a new borrowing fee, they will be most welcome to send them to the Library.

With regret it must be said that we are yet awaiting shipments from Spokesman Books and Allen & Unwin. Members have ordered a variety of books, but some of these have not been mailed out simply because the Library has itself not received them. The patience of purchasers is appreciated. As soon as materials are received by the Library they will be mailed out.

In association with the Audio-Visual Committee, the Library is working toward making formerly available records and films of Russell available once again. Also being developed are plans for a possible recording of Graham Whettam Sinfonia Contra Timore. Such activities require quite a bit of time and effort. Again, any thoughts or proposals which members might have would be welcomed.

As always, the Library, or more properly I, the Librarian, look forward to hearing from members. Your contributions, borrowings, purchases, inquiries, and criticisms are together the measure of what the Library is doing and should do.

Founded at the December 1975 annual meeting, the BRS Library was originally intended to be a lending library offering materials relevant to the life, thought and work of Russell. In 1977 the Library was given its second responsibility of distributing BRS-sponsored writings. Also in 1977 the Library began a sales program. The fourth and most recent delegation of work dates from 1978 with the organization of a separate collection of materials documenting the BRS's history. It is not the purpose of the Library to compete with the Russell Archives, any other library or bookseller, or the private collections of individuals. Rather, the Library simply aims to be a convenient center of Russelliana capable of meeting our association's needs.

I. The Lending Library. Every member is invited to donate whatever materials he or she would like to share with others. While the collection grows chiefly through the contributions of individuals, BRS funds are appropriated from time to time for the purchase of comparatively rare or expensive items. Also welcome are monetary gifts from members for purchases. A number of books and other materials have been contributed by publishers and other organizations. Books by and about Russell are the most desirable materials for the lending library, but there is much more worth acquiring. Significantly, the first item contributed was a film. Articles from periodicals, phonograph records, tape recordings, photographs, newspaper clippings, in addition to books and films, are the kinds of things comprising the lending library. Most borrowing makes use of the mail. The borrower pays for the cost of postage and any other necessary charges as, for example, insurance for certain items. A nominal fee, varying from item to item, is charged to provide for Library expenses. Films and certain other materials require a refundable deposit and a rental fee. An interested borrower should write to the Librarian making a request with some estimate of how long the item(s) borrowed will be kept. Recommended maximum borrowing periods are three weeks for printed matter and one week for all other items. When materials are returned, payment for postage and any other charges should be paid; however, deposits and rental fees, when applicable, must be paid in advance. It is expected that all borrowers will respect what they receive and that they will return all materials within a reasonable time and in good condition.

II. Promoting Scholarship and the BRS. Scholarly and more popular writings about Russell, the BRS, and related topics are distributed through the Library to members and interested non-members. While some of these writings are complimentary, others are for sale. Papers presented at BRS-sponsored symposia are examples of these materials. With this activity Russell research and popularization are encouraged and the BRS receives worthwhile publicity.

III. The Sales Program. A variety of books and other materials by and about Russell can be purchased through the Library. Most are usually available to members at a discount. Any profit realized is directed to the BRS Treasury and allocated for Library use. The Newsletter gives information on current offerings and prices. To order, write to the Librarian with payment.

IV. The BRS Archives. For historical purposes the Library has organized a collection of BRS documents and other materials. Examples of this collection's contents are correspondence, Newsletters, posters, and minutes.

All members are encouraged to write with requests and comments. Every contribution to the lending library will be gratefully received and acknowledged. Purchase orders are always welcome and are filled as promptly as possible. Interest and support shown by individual members are appreciated and are vital for the success of the Library's work.

1978 ANNUAL MEETING (CONTINUED)

Bertrand Russell's "Anti-Semitism"

by

Harry Ruja

Abstract of paper read at the annual meeting of the Bertrand Russell Society, Hamilton, Ontario, May 20, 1978.

In an article in Commentary for July 1976, Sidney Hook, long-time opponent of Russell's on political issues, branded Russell as "touched with anti-Semitism." He came to this conclusion after reading Clark's recent Life of Bertrand Russell.

He based this indictment on disparaging remarks about Jews Russell transmitted in private letters to Lady Ottoline Morrell and on a statement calling for Israel's condemnation as an aggressor which Russell signed and released to the press in late January 1970, two days before his death.

As for the uncomplimentary remarks, Jews feel threatened by anti-Semitism primarily when it extends beyond private feelings into public action. Hook does not maintain that any of Russell's public actions were anti-Semitic.

Indeed, on a number of occasions BR made public his appeals to the Soviet authorities to abandon certain policies discriminating against Jews--e.g., placing obstacles in the path of Jewish cultural developments, accusing an extravagant number of Jews of "economic crimes" against the state, and of separating families. In 1953 he made a moving address at a ceremony in London memorializing the martyrs of the Warsaw Ghetto, declaring "I feel the tragedy most profoundly with a feeling of shame that such things had happened and we had not prevented them."

As to the statement regarding Israeli aggression against Egypt, he failed to take account of facts which would have produced a contrary conclusion.

Item: Israel's bombing was against military targets, not civilian ones (even the Arabs did not claim that).

Item: The action was a response to Egyptian shelling of Israeli locations which started nearly eight months earlier and which constituted a violation of the cease-fire agreement of June 1967, producing by December 1969, fifty Israeli casualties per week.

Item: Israel had not sought "expansion by force of arms" but had in the two wars preceding the 1970 War of Attrition sought to defend itself against Arab attempts (freely professed) to "annul" Israel

"altogether," to "root out the Zionist cancer," to "throw the Jews into the sea for good," and "to establish a final solution to the Jewish problem." (Documentation of all of these available.)

Item: The "expansion" was not a reality anyway, for, except for East Jerusalem, none of the territories acquired as a result of the Arab failures to liquidate Israel were annexed to Israel but were held in trust, as it were, until "secure and recognized boundaries" (in the UN's phrase) could be achieved by negotiation.

Item: The Jews did not drive the Arabs from their homes. They left at the urging of their leaders who expected quite plausibly to overrun the just-born Jewish state in a short time. When their effort failed and a peace agreement was not forthcoming, Arabs who left their homes became refugees and were forced by their own kinsmen to remain refugees as a cynical instrument of power politics. Israel, in contrast, in 1948 extended a hand of friendship to its Arab inhabitants in its Declaration of Independence and has offered repeatedly to participate in discussions leading to a solution of the refugee problem in the context of a peace settlement.

Russell expressed a noble sentiment in calling at the end of his statement for a new world campaign to bring justice to the long-suffering people of the Middle East. But he failed to understand that Arab refusal to recognize the validity of Jewish national aspirations has prevented that and that in consequence not only have the Arab Palestinians suffered but the Jewish Palestinians as well.

However this may be, none of this in my opinion is sufficient grounds for accusing Russell of anti-Semitism. Neither was it the opinion of the London Jewish Chronicle, or the Israeli newspaper Ha-aretz, or many other newspapers and journals, Jewish and non-Jewish, which mourned the passing of this great champion of freedom and rationality--in a word--humanity. Even when at times his facts were awry, his sentiments were always noble.

* * * * *

Sidney Hook's article in Commentary is reproduced in N112-62.

1978 ANNUAL MEETING (CONTINUED)

Minutes of the 1978 Annual Meeting of Directors
of
The Bertrand Russell Society, Inc.

The Board of Directors of the Bertrand Russell Society, Inc. met in two separate sessions on Friday, May 19 and Saturday, May 20, 1978 in Room 1A1 of the Health Sciences Centre of McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

Friday, May 19

The President of the Board, Peter Cranford, called the first session to order at 10:07 p.m. The following twelve Board members were present: Peter Cranford, Ken Blackwell, Bob Davis, Lester E. Denonn, Lee Eisler, Ed Hopkins, Martin Garstens, Don Jackanicz, Dan McDonald, Jack Pitt, Steve Reinhardt, and Warren Smith. Members not present were Joe Neillands, Gary Slezak, and Katharine Tait.

After Peter's opening remarks which included a warning that BRS finances are weak, Steve Reinhardt presented the Treasurer's report. Members were referred to Russell Society News for periodic detailed accounts of income and expenditures. Steve concentrated on suggesting methods by which income could be increased and by which present income could be used more economically. He

(a) recommended that independent audits of Treasury operations be regularly made.

(b) Lee Eisler gave reports for the Information and Membership Committees. (f) Noting that the BRS had 184 members, he explained that a minimum of 200 members are required for eligibility for non-profit organization postal rates. Lee elaborated on advertising practices and cited statistics indicating inquiry and membership trends.

(c) In general discussion the question of whether dues should be increased was studied. Topics touched upon included how more funding could be obtained and how increased membership and renewals could be encouraged. A proposal to establish a new Finance Committee was inconclusively discussed. The session was adjourned at 11:50 p.m.

Saturday, May 20

Peter Cranford called the second session to order at 5:00 p.m. The following ten Board members were present: Peter Cranford, Bob Davis, Lester E. Denonn, Lee Eisler, Ed Hopkins, Don Jackanicz, Dan McDonald, Jack Pitt, Steve

Reinhardt, and Warren Smith. Members not present were Ken Blackwell, Martin Garstens, Joe Neillands, Gary Slezak, and Katharine Tait.

(d) The report of the Scholarship Awards Committee was given by Jack Pitt. He distributed a sheet (49j) listing seven motions pertaining to the Travelling Fellowship Program. These seven motions were formally placed before the Board by Lee Eisler, seconded by Bob Davis, and unanimously accepted.

(e) Warren Smith next reported on the Audio-Visual and Administration Committee. He supplied general information on Graham Whettam's Sinfonia Contra Timore and explored the means by which the BRS could produce a recording of it. Discussion ensued on the financing and distribution of such a recording. Two opposing views were aired: (1) that this composition is a meaningful musical tribute to Russell; that the work in itself has artistic merit and should be made available to a larger public; that publicity for the BRS could be engendered through a successful recording; that a potentially substantial profit might be realized from the sale of such recordings; and (2) that the BRS should not become involved in new and complex undertakings when existing ones have yet to be consolidated; that the BRS would be furthering the career of a composer of whom little is known; that the distribution of recordings is problematic and can result in losses as well as profits. It was finally moved by Bob Davis, seconded by Lester E. Denonn, and unanimously accepted that Warren is to investigate further the possibility of the BRS producing a recording of the Whettam composition and that recognition be accorded to Warren's voluntarily made offer that he be responsible for any financial loss which may result from a BRS-sponsored Whettam recording. It was moved by Bob Davis, seconded by Jack Pitt, and unanimously accepted that the Audio-Visual and Administration Committee shall investigate the possibility of the BRS rereleasing out-of-print recordings of Russell.

Lee Eisler reopened the previous evening's discussion of increasing dues. This topic led to consideration of the work of the Finance Committee chaired by Peter Cranford. It was moved by Jack Pitt, seconded by Lee Eisler, and unanimously accepted that Warren Smith and Bob Davis shall be Co-Chairpersons of a new Committee responsible for fund-raising. It was moved by Jack Pitt, seconded by Bob Davis, and unanimously accepted that any proposed changes in dues shall first be discussed at length by the new Committee responsible for fund-raising and that this Committee shall present a report on dues reform to the Board by August 31, 1978.

(g) The next order of business was the nomination and election of officers. Each of the following officers-elect was unanimously elected:

-- Chairman of the Board of Directors-----Peter Cranford
(Nominated by Lee Eisler, seconded by Jack Pitt)
-- Secretary of the Board of Directors----Don Jackanicz
(Lee Eisler, Jack Pitt)
-- President-----Bob Davis
(Don Jackanicz, Lee Eisler)

- Vice President-----Warren Smith
(Lee Eisler, Bob Davis)
- Treasurer-----Steve Reinhardt
(Bob Davis, Warren Smith)
- Secretary-----Don Jackanicz
(Bob Davis, Warren Smith)

(h) It was moved by Bob Davis, seconded by Ed Hopkins, and unanimously accepted that a Parliamentary and Elections Committee be formed with Lee Eisler as Chairperson. Lee appointed Warren Smith to assist in this Committee's work. It was then moved by Lee Eisler, seconded by Bob Davis, and unanimously accepted that terms of officers-elect shall begin on January 1 of the year following their election.

It was informally agreed that Don Jackanicz, the Secretary-elect, would assist Jack Pitt, the incumbent Secretary, in preparing minutes of the 1978 Board of Directors and general meetings. Also, it was informally agreed (i) that Jack Pitt and Ed Hopkins will work with Bob Davis to locate a new Chairperson for the Applied Philosophy Committee. Problems of financing were again discussed. The question was posed which officers have the power to sign BRS checks; no conclusive answer was agreed upon. Steve Reinhardt announced that he would be on vacation for seven weeks beginning about July 4 and therefore unable to act in his capacity as Treasurer. Board members were advised to make any necessary arrangements with Steve before that date. The final topic of discussion concerned the site and date of the 1979 meeting. It was decided to postpone a decision with the expectation that the general membership will make its preferences known within sufficient time for planning purposes. The meeting concluded at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald W. Jackanicz
Donald W. Jackanicz

August 1, 1978

The Travelling Fellowship Program:
7 Proposals by Jack Pitt

(j) I think the useful question to ask is how shall the Travelling Fellowship Program (TFP) swing into operation (rather than why it has not done so). You should have the prior documents pertinent to the Program which I have duplicated and distributed to remind us of the point we had reached last year. I shall now advance some proposals aimed at establishing the Program as a reality in the coming year.

Motion 1 That the Chair of the TFP assume the responsibilities and duties of the Grant Committees. (This person may enlist the help of other interested members, would continue to report annually to the Board, and would keep the President up to date regarding actions taken. In particular, no funds exceeding fifty dollars would be spent without prior authorization of the President.)

Motion 2 That the Chair of TFP be required to assemble a Fellowship Selection Committee of at least three scholars of national/international reputation to judge Fellowship applications. The Chair would function as an ex officio member of this Committee.

Motion 3 That the chair of the TFP be authorized to execute the fund-raising plans.

Motion 4 That the previously adopted motion of setting aside \$1.50 of each member's annual dues to go towards the TFP be implemented beginning July 1st 1978.

Motion 5 (a) that funds earmarked for the TFP not be spent in any other way, and (b) that such funds already so spent be replaced within the current fiscal year from non-TFP sources.

Motion 6 That efforts continue to effect a compossible relation with McMaster University as stated in Motion 6 on this topic at the previous meeting.

Motion 7 That efforts be made to establish similarly compossible relations with Universities which either house Russell material of interest or have on their faculties persons with recognized and exceptional knowledge of some aspect of Russell's work or of his historical period.

* * * * *

These proposals were accepted at the Meeting of Directors.

1978 ANNUAL MEETING (CONTINUED)

Minutes of the 1978 Annual Meeting of Members
of
The Bertrand Russell Society, Inc.

The fifth annual business meeting of the Bertrand Russell Society, Inc. was held Friday, May 19 through Sunday, May 21, 1978 at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

Friday, May 19

The first session was called to order in Room 1A1 of the Health Sciences Centre at 7:30 p.m. by Ken Blackwell, Russell Archivist. He introduced Peter Cranford, Chairman of the BRS Board of Directors, Dean A. Berland, Chairman of the Russell Archives Advisory Board, and Dr. William Ready, University Librarian. Dean Berland welcomed the BRS on behalf of McMaster University. Entitling his talk "A Challenge to the BRS", Dr. Ready examined the development of the Russell Archives; he also explained that the papers of Sidney Hook were now available for \$750 and in effect challenged the BRS to raise funds toward their purchase. A film, The Life and Times of Bertrand Russell, was then presented. With President Bob Davis now chairing the session, the remainder of the evening was devoted to a general discussion of Russell's personal qualities and concerns and how they are related to the aims and work of the BRS. The session was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Saturday, May 20

Since a sizeable number of members were present at an 8:00 a.m. breakfast in the Green Room of the Health Sciences Centre, it was decided to begin the second session at that time and place. Chairman Peter Cranford presided and (a) was the first speaker. He concentrated on the problems of BRS financing, stating (b) that there is a deficit. Lee Eisler, the Chairperson of the Information and Membership Committees, next presented statistics on member recruiting, enrollments, and renewals. (About one member out of two renews membership.) He reported on results of magazine advertising: Atlantic Monthly and Saturday Review will be dropped; Atlas, Harper's, Mensa, The Nation, and The New Republic will be retained. He stated his appreciation of the fine work that Beverly Smith has been doing as Co-Chairperson of the Membership Committee: during the past year she has answered 400 inquiries and enrolled seventy-three new members, all of which represents a contribution to the BRS of many, many hours of work and reflects a strong desire to help the BRS function effectively. Next, Harry Ruja proposed to offer an honorary presidency or membership to a celebrated person such as an eminent philosopher.

- (c) Discussion briefly returned to matters of financing as Peter Cranford recommended considering a reduction of activities, for example by decreasing the size of Russell Society News, as an alternative to increasing expenses and, by implication, increasing dues and developing other income sources. A report on (d) the BRS Library was given by Don Jackanicz. He reviewed the work of the lending library and the sales program; requested \$280 in Treasury funds to purchase two Russell films whose price has continued to increase; told of discovering a film of Russell on Meet the Press; congratulated Peter Cranford whose paper, "The Relevance of Bertrand Russell to Psychology", has been well received by professionals learning of it through advertisements in the American Psychological Association Monitor; expressed the hope that similar brief papers will be written for professionals in other fields as an introduction to Russell; and supported proposals to produce records or tapes of out-of-print Russell records and the Graham Whettam symphony dedicated to Russell.

At 9:15 a.m. members reassembled in Room 1A1 with Bob Davis presiding. A short film, Bertrand Russell Discusses Happiness, was shown. The following were matters discussed or proposals made and/or acted upon:

- Lee Eisler suggested that annual meetings be held during the first six months of a year to avoid the possibility that meetings might become spaced too close to one another.
- Members voiced their preferences concerning the site and date of the 1979 meeting. Cities proposed included Hamilton, New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, San Francisco, and Austin. Some members expressed opposition to meeting in states whose legislatures have not passed the Equal Rights Amendment. Members will vote on the 1979 meeting site and date via a mail ballot.
- Bob Davis mentioned the possibility of organizing a charter tour of Britain in which places associated with Russell would be visited.
- Ken Blackwell proposed approaching the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation through Christopher Farley to learn details of Russell's Plas Penrhyn house which has been put up for sale following Edith Russell's death. Bob Davis and Don Jackanicz are to investigate this.
- (e) -- The problems of the Awards Committee were reviewed, especially the fact that nothing of substance had been accomplished by this Committee. Gladys Leithauser proposed a BRS book award, a suggestion receiving general approval; Nick Griffin proposed a BRS Award for Folly which many thought could attract media attention. However, no decisions were reached.
- It was moved by Martin Garstens, seconded by Peter Cranford, and unanimously accepted to offer Dora Russell honorary membership.
- It was moved by Lee Eisler, seconded by Harry Ruja, and unanimously accepted to increase the membership of the Board of Directors to a minimum of six and a maximum of twenty-four persons. (The previous numbers were three and fifteen.)

This is Item (50) continued

A series of individual presentations followed. Having traveled from West Germany to attend the meeting, Dong-In Bae spoke about the Korean Bertrand Russell Society of which he was the founder. He elaborated on his hope that the BRS will take stands on political issues. Carl Spadoni then gave his paper, "Philosophy in Russell's Letters to Alys Pearsall Smith", which charted Russell's place in turn-of-the-century Cambridge Neo-Hegelianism. David B. Harley presented his study, "Beacon Hill School", which examined the background of Bertrand and Dora Russell's educational experiment. It was shown that Russell's own educational experiences--many of them negative--and, moreover, tragic contemporary events--especially World War I with its popular support--were decisive factors leading to the School's founding and character. Next, Bob Davis read excerpts from the final chapter of Dora Russell's recently completed book on education. Having attended Beacon Hill School for ten years beginning at the age of two, Joy Corbett responded to a variety of questions from members. Following a break for lunch, another film, Bertrand Russell Discusses the Role of the Individual, was shown. Lester E. Denonn then presented "Some Adjectives, Adverbs, and Descriptive Phrases Which I Found in My Readings Applied to Bertrand Russell". This talk included diverse biographical and bibliographical material. The session was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 21

The third and final session was called to order by Bob Davis at 10:00 a.m. in Room 1A1. A film, Bertrand Russell, was presented. Harry Ruja then spoke on "Bertrand Russell and the Jews". Citing various letters and published writings, he rebutted recent allegations of Russell's anti-Semitism made by Sidney Hook. However, it was claimed that Russell based his 1970 condemnation of Israel on inadequate evidence. The final individual presentation was that of Gladys Leithauser who gave her paper, "A Non-Supernatural Faust: Bertrand Russell and the Themes of Faust". After a review of the Faust legend's evolution, she examined the relevance of Faustian imagery in works such as A Free Man's Worship and "The Perplexities of John Forstice". Joy Corbett returned briefly to address further questions concerning her Beacon Hill School days. The session concluded at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald W. Jackanicz

Donald W. Jackanicz

August 1, 1978

LAST MINUTE NEWS

- (51) A. J. Ayer. We have just received word -- and a welcome word it is -- that Sir Alfred Ayer has accepted an invitation to become an honorary member. He qualifies for honorary membership under Article II, Section 2 (III). He has admired, and been influenced by, BR's views, for some 50 years (RSN18-11), and has written many philosophical volumes, including Language, Truth and Logic (1936), The Problem of Knowledge (1956), Russell and Moore: The Analytical Heritage (1971), The Central Questions of Philosophy (1973). He is Professor of Logic at Oxford, and a Fellow of the British Academy. For much more about him, see The Encyclopedia of Philosophy, London: Macmillan, 1967. The BRS Bylaws require "approval by two-thirds of the members voting." Please use the Ballot, Part 4, last page.

INDEX

- (52) Introductory (1). 1978 Annual Meeting (2) Next Annual Meeting (1979)(3). Chairman Cranford reports (4). President Davis reports (5,53c). Committee Reports: Applied Philosophy (6,49i); Audio-Visual (7,49e); Finance (8;49c,f;50a,c); Library (9, 47,50d); Membership (49b,50b); Scholarship Awards (11;49d,j;50e); Science (12). BR describes hell (13). Beichman's BR quote (14). McKeown on BR as sociologist (15,46). Ruja on BR's "anti-Semitism"(16,48). Psychologists' 204 requests (17). Sutcliffe papers (18). Religious debate is dead (19). Lewis Thomas: we need more science (20). Why Jacqueline is sad (21). News about members: Cleavelin (22); Ellis (23); Lamont (24); Stahl (25,45); Straus (26); Vogt (27). Honorary memberships: Paul Edwards (28); A. J. Ayer (51). New Members (29). Address changes (30). 200 members (31). Denonn library for sale (32). Stationery price increase (33). BRS Library: books for sale (34). Inquiries: BR mention in 2 movies (35); Anthony Flew-BR debate (36). Mark Twain book recommended (37). Contributors thanked (38). 8 Director-candidates (39). Please single-space (40). Smaller type, this issue (41). BR Peace Foundation in West Germany (42). Periodicals: "Other Minds"(43); "Humanist Quest for Truth" (44). Herbert Stahl (Congressional Record)(45). McKeown paper (BR as sociologist)(46). Library Report (47). Ruja abstract (BR's "anti-Semitism")(48). Minutes: Directors' Meeting (49); Members' Meeting (50). Ayer (51). Index (52). 4-part Ballot (53)

(53)

BALLOT

This ballot is in 4 parts. Please read each part before mailing.

(53a)

Part 1. Election of Directors

8 persons are to be elected to the Board of Directors, for 3-year terms starting 1/1/79. Please make a checkmark next to the names of those candidates listed below whom you wish to vote for. Brief remarks about each candidate are given in (39).

- Peter G. Cranford
- Robert K. Davis
- Lee Eisler
- Martin Garstens
- James E. McKeown
- Harry Ruja
- Gary Slezak
- Beverly C. Smith

(53b)

Part 2. Time and place of 1979 Meeting

(Please skip this part of the ballot if you are certain you will not attend the 1979 Meeting. On the other hand, if there is a possibility — even though it's only a slight possibility — that you may attend, please do not skip it.)

Write "1" next to your first choice, "2" next to your second choice.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Place: () Boston | Time: () December 1978 |
| (2) Chicago | () January 1979 |
| (1) Hamilton | () February 1979 |
| () New York | () March 1979 |
| () Philadelphia | () April 1979 |
| () Washington | () May 1979 |
| () other _____ | () June 1979 |
| | () July 1979 |
| | () August 1979 |

I will not be able to come on the following weekend(s): _____

(53c)

Part 3. Bob Davis' questions

1. What talks or programs would you like to see on the agenda of the 1979 Annual Meeting? _____

Would a panel of students from Beacon Hill School interest you? Yes Have you any other observations or recommendations for the 1979 Meeting? _____

2. The possibility of a ERS-sponsored trip to Britain next summer was discussed and has met with some enthusiasm. Would you be interested in such a trip? No When would be a good time for you to take such a trip? _____

None Here is a tentative list of places to visit. Please circle ones that interest you: London Osford Cambridge Nottingham(BR Peace Foundation) North Wales (Penrhyndeudraeth) Woburn Abbey(Russell family estate, and greatest "stately home" privately owned and open to the public). Other suggestions Great
Idea but I wouldn't be able to go.

3. We discussed establishing a BRS Award for a book that expresses well some issue or interest that BR addressed. Do you have a nominee for such an award? _____

Would you be interested in serving on a selection committee? _____

4. A BRS Folly Award was also suggested. Such an award has intriguing possibilities, but will, it seems to me, be difficult to handle correctly. Do you have any nominees for such an award? _____

5. We are establishing a committee to explore the teaching of philosophy in high schools. Have you any suggestions for books, essays, etc., that might be of value in such a course? Portraits from Memory, "Mind and Matter"
"Why I look to Philosophy"

(53d)

Part 4. Honorary memberships

Honorary members must be approved by two-thirds of the members voting. Please make a checkmark below, to show your approval or disapproval.

- A. J. Ayer Check one: Approve Disapprove
- Paul Edwards Check one: Approve Disapprove

Your name _____ date _____
Remove this page and mail it to The Bertrand Russell Society, Inc., RD 1, Box 409, Coopersburg, Pa. 18036. Must be postmarked before 10/1/78.