RUSSELL SOCIETY NEWS

No. 76, November 1992

The Bertrand Russell Society, Inc.

3802 North Kenneth Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60641-2814 U.S.A.

Page

The Bertrand Russell Society was founded in 1974 to foster a better understanding of Russell's work and to promote ideas and causes he thought important. The Society's motto is Russell's statement, "The good life is one inspired by love and guided by knowledge."

Letters to Russell Society News, a quarterly issued in February, May, August, and November, should be sent to Donald W. Jackanicz, Editor at the above Chicago address.

Inquiries on information about and membership in The Bertrand Russell Society should be sent to Mr. Lee Eisler; BRS Information Committee; 1664 Pleasant View Road; Coopersburg, Pennsylvania 18036; U.S.A.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Michael J. Rockler, President, The Bertrand Russell Society

The question of "school choice" surfaced as an important issue in the presidential campaign. President Bush supported the use of government vouchers which could be spent in either public or private schools. The Democrats wished to provide students with options but to confine government support to choice among public schools. In the past the Congress has refused to subsidize private schools with tuition vouchers.

I paid particular attention to this issue during the campaign because of my special interest in education. The debate over choice made me wonder how Russell would respond to the conflict. Russell believed in setting limits on unbridled free enterprise. The privatization of education advocated by the Republicans is an example of applying marketplace economics to schooling. Thus one could surmise that Russell would be in opposition to the Republican plan.

Russell was suspicious of all ways that education was organized. He distrusted private schools because they promoted religious beliefs. But he also had reservations about state-supported schools because of their tendency to indoctrinate children with false patriotism. This is one reason why he and Dora opened the Beacon Hill School.

Because of Russell's conflicting views it is difficult to know precisely how he would react to school choice involving private schools. My own guess is that he would ultimately oppose privatization of education because of his generally liberal orientation to the solution of social problems. But this is only my guess.

Russell's views on education will be debated by Marvin Kohl and me at the coming meeting of the Society in June. Tim Madigan, executive editor of <u>Free Inquiry</u>, will speak on "The Will to Believe Versus the Will to Doubt." Gladys Leithauser is planning to do a participatory workshop on Russell's fiction. And hopefully, Congressman Neil Abercrombie will be present to analyze the 1992 election. Harry Ruja will receive the BRS Award. Other interesting presentations will be made.

The meeting will be held at the University of California in San Diego on June 18, 19, and 20. Housing will be in campus apartments which are walking distance from the ocean. Please come to the 1993 meeting; it is not too early to begin planning for it. If you have never attended a BRS annual conference, scenic San Diego would be a good place to start. I look forward to seeing all of you in San Diego.

If anyone wishes to present a paper at the conference, please contact me at National-Louis University, 2840 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL 60201 (708-475-1100, ext. 2141). Earl Russell

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FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

John Lenz, Vice President, The Bertrand Russell Society

Vice President Lenz has prepared this announcement about the BRS's "Prizes for Papers" competition, reproduced here in reduced size. The announcement will be mailed to numerous colleges, universities, and institutions.

"The good life is one inspired by love and guided by knowledge"

THE BERTRAND RUSSELL SOCIETY, INC.

Please post

NEW

PRIZES FOR PAPERS

The Bertrand Russell Society is offering *Prizes for Papers*, starting in 1993. There will be 2 Prizes for the best papers, one Prize for undergraduates, and one Prize for "young professionals" (graduate students, junior professors, nonacademics).

The Prize-winners will present their papers at the Society's next Annual Meeting, in San Diego, June 18-20, 1993.

All expenses will be paid. This includes travel, lodging, and meals, plus \$100 in pocket money. Winners outside North America will receive a portion of their airfare.

Another part of the Prize is a first-year membership in The Bertrand Russell Society. Among the benefits are the 4 quarterly issues of *Russell Society News*, and the semi-annual scholarly journal, *Russell*, published by the Russell Archives at McMaster University.

The papers can be on any aspect of Russell's life, work, or influence. They must be intended, not for specialists, but for a general audience. They can be broad or narrow in scope, and in any of the many fields that interested Russell: logic, ethics, history, politics, marriage, religion, education, peace, nuclear war, history of ideas, mathematics, etc., etc. Or they can be on Russell's relations with other people.

Length should be about 20 double-spaced pages, aiming at a 45 minute presentation.

Submit not an abstract, but a complete, or nearly complete, paper. State that you could, if chosen, attend the June Annual Meeting, and that you have not previously appeared on a Russell Society Annual Meeting program. Give your phone number.

Please submit your paper by MARCH 1, 1993 to Prof. John Lenz, Dept. of Modern and Classical Languages, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843. 409-845-4742. e-mail:jrlenz@tamu.edu.

These Prizes replace the Grants we have been giving in recent years.

At its Annual Meeting — an informal weekend gathering of BRS members of diverse interests and backgrounds — the Society presents its BRS Award and its Book Award for the current year. In 1992 the BRS Award went to Sir Karl Popper and the Book Award went to Nicholas Griffin for his *Russell's Idealist Apprenticeship*.

For more information about The Bertrand Russell Society (not the Prizes) write to: Lee Eisler, 1664 Pleasant View Road, Coopersburg, PA 18036.

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BRS BUSINESS

1. 1993 Annual Meeting. It's not too early to start planning to join your fellow BRS members for the June 18-20, 1993 BRS Annual Meeting in San Diego. Mark you calendars! Study California and San Diego maps and tourism books! Consider means of travel from your city to San Diego! Please refer in this newsletter to the President's and Vice President's reports that in part concern the Annual Meeting. The next <u>RSN</u> will include more details about the meeting. So stay tuned, and do start thinking about being with us in June.

2. BRS American Philosophical Association Session. Each year the BRS sponsors a session at the December meeting of the American Philosophical Association (Eastern Division). For information about the December 1992 BRS APA session, contact Prof. David E. Johnson, Department of Philosophy, Sampson Hall, 107 Maryland Avenue, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD 21402-5044.

3. BRS Award. All members are encouraged to nominate persons or organizations for the BRS Award. The 1993 BRS Award recipient will be Harry Ruja, well known for his work in Russell scholarship. But other nominations are needed for future awards. Please send nominations to Prof. Marvin Kohl, Department of Philosophy, 715 Maytum Hall, SUNY at Fredonia, Fredonia, NY 14063.

4. BRS Book Award. All members are also encouraged to nominate authors and books for the BRS Book Award. The 1993 recipient has not yet been announced. In other words, the selection process goes on, and your nominations are needed. Please send nominations to Prof. Gladys Leithauser, 122 Elm Park, Pleasant Ridge, MI 48069.

5. Changes in the Information and Membership Committees. We are pleased to report that the work of the Information and Membership Committees will continue with a change in those doing the work. First of all, our thanks to William Fielding, outgoing Co-Chairman of the Membership Committee, whose fine work did so much to attract and welcome new BRS members. The other Co-Chairman, Lee Eisler, continues for now in his long service to the BRS, but in time he will turn over many of his Information Committee and Membership Committee duties to Michael Rockler and Dennis Darland. Thanks, again, to William, and thanks to Lee, Michael, and Dennis for their contributions of time, effort, and expense in spreading the word on the BRS!

6. Suggestions. Members should feel free to contact the BRS with suggestions about our organization, its aims, and its programs. Send your suggestions and comments to Don Jackanicz, <u>RSN</u> Editor, 3802 North Kenneth Avenue, Chicago, IL 60641. Don will forward them to the appropriate BRS officer. We do want to hear from you.

7. Newsletter contributions. Members are asked to send Russell-related news, clippings, information, etc. to <u>RSN</u> at the above address. Space and editorial considerations limit what can be printed, but your input is most welcome.

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1993 DUES ARE DUE

TO ALL MEMBERS: Everybody's renewal dues are due January 1, 1993. The January 1st due-date applies to all members, including first-year members (except those who joined in the final quarter, i.e. October-December 1992).

Here is the 1993 dues schedule: Regular, \$35; Couple, \$40; Student and Limited Income, \$12.50; Limited Income Couple, \$15. Plus \$10 outside the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. Plus \$4 for Canada and Mexico. In U.S. dollars.

Please mail dues, payable to "Bertrand Russell Society," to: BRS-1993, 1664 Pleasant View Road, Coopersburg, PA 18036.

If you want to make our life a little easier, send your dues soon. And if we receive them before January 1st, you'll find your name on the Renewal Honor Roll. Thanks!

TO FIRST YEAR MEMBERS -- members who joined any time during 1992; the rest of this item is for you.

We know from experience that new members sometimes feel put upon when asked to pay dues after less than a year of membership. We understand that. We'll tell you why we do it this way.

In the previous system, a new member's dues covered 12 months of membership. That required us to notify each member individually -- on the anniversary date of enrollment -- that the next year's dues were due. And after that, we had to follow up on all members, to see whether dues were in fact paid. This went on throughout the whole year. It was cumbersome, provided many chances for error, and took a lot of time. In fact, it took more time than we had. We had to make a change.

The present system is easier to administer, produces fewer errors, and takes less time. Everyone's dues come due on the same day, January 1st. Simple!

We don't think that the new member whose first year of membership is less (sometimes considerably less) than 12 months has been short-changed in any important way. He/she has received just as many newsletters (and knows as much about the BRS) as the member who joined in January.

All first-year members (except those who enrolled in January) have a first-year membership period that is shorter than a year. Thereafter, the yearly membership period is always a full 12 months.

The one exception to all the above are those who joined in October/November/ December 1992.

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Thanks again to all renewers for their continuing support of the BRS!

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION RESULTS

RSN, No. 75 included a ballot for the election of eight BRS Directors for three year terms beginning January 1, 1993. There were ten fine candidates, and we thank all of them for participating in this election. We also thank all members who voted. Here are the names of the eight new orreelected Directors:

JACK COWLES LINDA EGENDORF WILLIAM FIELDING TIM MADIGAN PAUL SCHILPP WARREN SMITH RAMON SUZARA THOM WEIDLICH

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NEWS FROM MEMBERS

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From Frank Bisk. "I recently read an essay by Paul Johnson that is a rather meanspirited aggressive attack on B.R.'s character. In Johnson's reactionary lexicon "secular" is a pejorative term.... It is in a 1988 book called Intellectuals and is most anti-intellectual in tone."

Frank informed us that his name was omitted from the RSN, No. 75 membership list. We regret this error. Here is Frank's address:

Frank Bisk; 2940 Mott Avenue; Far Rockaway, NY 11691.

From Cal Wichern. Cal also informed us that his name was omitted from the membership list. Again, we regret this error. Here is his address:

Cal Wichern; 3829 South Olathe Street; Aurora, CO 80013.

From Ted Jackanicz and Tim Madigan. We received word from each of these members that BR is referred to in Roger Angell's "Shouts and Murmurs; First Tuesday" article in The New Yorker, November 9, 1992, p. 148. Angell's article, which concerns aspects of the November 3 U.S. election, makes reference to the story that Russell, if confronted after death by God, would defend his prior atheism by explaining, "God, you gave us insufficient evidence!"

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NEW MEMBERS

We welcome these new BRS members and hope to see at least some of them in San Diego in June 1993.

THE ALTERNATIVE READING ROOM; 2 Wall Street; #115; Asheville, NC 28801-2716. Ms. ANNA B. CASEY; 320 Willets Avenue Ext.; Waterford, CT 06385. Mr. WILLIAM CATUS; 943-C Manor Lane; Columbus, OH 43221. Mr. RICHARD CHADY; 2 Alden Court; Delmar, NY 12054. Mr. KJER COX; 401 Weare; Woodbine, IA 51579. Prof. SUZANNE CUNNINGHAM; Philosophy; Loyola University; Chicago, IL 60626. Mr. D.M. DAUGHARTY; 16 North Washington Court; Cheney, WA 99004. Mr. WILLIAM V. FLEITZ III; 9303 Robnel Place; Vienna, VA 22182. Mr. J. SCOTLAND GALLO; 17916 East Park Drive; Cleveland, OH 44119. Mr. STEVEN S. GOLEMME; 11602 Ashley Drive; Rockville, MD 20852. Dr. LOUIS GREENSPAN; B.R. Editorial Project; McMaster University; Hamilton, Ontario L85 4M2; Canada. Ms. GOLDIE P. GROSS; 2026 Westfield Terrace; Bethlehem, PA 18017. Mr. IAN D. HILL; 275 Woburn Avenue; Toronto, Ontario M5M 1L1; Canada. Mr. WILLIAM R. HARTZOG; 405 College Drive; Gaffney, SC 29340. Mr. THOMAS C. HOWARD; 1007 Highland Circle; Blacksburg, VA 24060. Mr. JAMES D. MOORE; P.O. Box 1867; Alachua, FL 32615-1867. Mr. ARIEL D. ROBINSON; 7804 Miller Fall Road; Derwood, MD 20855. Prof. HERB SILVERMAN; 6 Peele Place; Charleston, SC 29401. Mr. WILLIAM J. WHALEY II; 1317 1st Avenue; Watervliet, NY 12189. Ms. DIANE MACKENROTH; 201 Kingsboro Street; Pittsburgh, PA 15211.

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NEW ADDRESSES

Members are asked to inform the BRS of address changes or corrections. Doing so will get your issues of <u>Russell Society News</u> and <u>Russell: The Journal of</u> <u>the Bertrand Russell Archives</u> to you more promptly. Doing so will also reduce BRS mail costs. Please send change/correction notices to Mr. Lee Eisler; BRS Information Committee; 1664 Pleasant View Road; Coopersburg, PA 18036.

Ms. DEBORAH BOHNERT; 1 Beacon Street; Marblehead, MA 01945-2677.

Mr. WALTER A. BURBANK; RFD 1; 40 McCrillis Road; Epping, NH 03042-5206.

Mr. ROBERT P. CANTERBURY; 418 West Street; Lansing, MI 48915-1102.

Mr. STEVEN H. FULLER; 356 SW. 2nd; Apt. 3; Pendleton, OR 97801.

Dr. SUSAN J. GIROD; 3605 Meda Pass; Fort Wayne, IN 46809.

Dr. JEROLD J. HARTER; 3605 Meda Pass; Fort Wayne, IN 46809.

Dr. ROGER OTIS KUHRT; 5717 112th Street SW.; Tacoma, WA 98499-3023.

Mr. JOHN R. O'NEILL; 961 43rd Avenue; #82; Sacto, CA 95831.

Dr. JOHN D. ROCKFELLOW; Rosenorns Alle 57 st. th.; DK-1970 Frederiks. C.; Denmark.

Mr. JOHN EDWIN SHOSKY; 1806 Rollins Drive; Alexandria, VA 22307-1613.

Mr. JOHN E. SONNTAG; c/o COM PO USCG; Coast Guard Island; Alameda, CA 94501.

Mr. THOM WEIDLICH; 170 East 3rd Street; Apt. 10; New York, NY 10009.

Mr. WALTER WEND; 13 Oakland Hills Road; Rotunda West, FL 33947.

Mr. TODD WILSON; 48 41st Street; Islip, NY 11751-1318.

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BRS PHILIPPINE CHAPTER

Here in reduced size is the first page of the Bertrand Russell Society, Philippine Chapter's Newsletter, Number 2, September 1992. If you would like to communicate with the BRS, Philippine Chapter, write to it c/o Poch Suzara, 8 Zipper Street, San Lorenzo Village, Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines. If you happen to have spare copies of Russell books, are able to make a monetary contribution toward the Chapter's work, or just want to send some words of encouragement, Poch and his fellow Philippine members would be pleased to hear from you. We would also like to congratulate Poch on his election as a BRS Director.

BERTRAND RUSSELL SOCIETY, Philippine Chapter QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER No. 2 September 1992

NEWS!!!

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Jojie Cruz submitted this report for the period ending August 31, 1992

Bank Balance		
on Hand as of		
June 06, 1992	P	2.00

Income:		
Membership Fees		500.00
Total Income	Ρ	502.00
Expenses:		
Stationery &		
Other Supplies		382.00
Postages/Stamps		40.00
Total Expenses	Р	422.00
Bank Balance as of		
August 31, 1992	P	78.00
		VVVVV

It was agreed upon during the last regular meeting that membership fees for this year would be waived inasmuch as our Treasury has yet to receive payments from the other members. In effect, those who have already settled their membership fees this year would automatically be considered to have paid their membership dues for 1993.

Payments can be made to Treasurer Jojie Cruz thru Tel. Nos. 722-5861 Mondays to Fridays during office hours or at 921-8331 after office hours as well as Saturdays and Sundays. Prompt settlement of dues will be appreciated.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS FOR THE BERTRAND RUSSELL SOCIETY, U.S.A.

We are pleased to inform you fellow BRS members that our very own Int'l Representative Poch Suzara is one of the ten fine candidates to be elected to the BRS Board of Directors for 1993 through 1995.

For your information, the full BRS Board of Directors consists of 24 Directors elected by the BRS membership and the five ex BRS officio officers (President, Vice President, Vice President/Information, Secretary, and Treasurer). Eight of the 24 are elected each year. Terms are for three years.

WE MISS YOU ! ! !

Calling on the following BRS members. We sure want to know how you guys are doing and would appreciate if you can have time to attend our next regular meeting on October 17, 1972.

Jessica & Norman Castillo, Max & Maquette Indolos, Armi Cortez, Dennis Gumpal, Joey Tanedo, Jun Corral, Teng Santamaria, Howie Borja, Dave Baradas, Joey Reyes and Terrylou Peralta. (10)

BRS BENARES CHAPTER IS FLOURISHING

The following is excerpted from Chandrakala Padia's letter to Lee Eisler of May 27, 1992:

I organized a 2-day annual conference of the Benares Chapter of the Bertrand Russell Society for 10th and 11th of May, 1992. It took me about one month of preparation. I invited an eminent social scientist and renowned critic, Professor Namwar Singh from New Delhi, and paid for his to and fro journey, since this Chapter has no funds of its own.

He spoke on "Bertrand Russell and Socialism." His presentation was lucid and analytical -- and if he gives it in print, it will be a novel interpretation. He spoke in Hindi, and I taped the whole thing; but I will need a few days to concentrate upon it and translate it into English. His talk was followed by discussion and a question-and-answer session. I spoke about Russell's book, The Theory and Practice of Bolshevism.

Professor Mohna Thompi spoke on "The Disintegration of the Soviet Union."

The Conference was attended by about 60 persons. Everyone became interested in learning more about Russell, about his work, about the Russell Society, and the Benares Chapter. Everything was quite exciting and very enjoyable.

I shall be sending a detailed report on our activities.

Please inform the BRS members of the Benares Chapter's activities -- its growth and contribution to the spread of Russell's thought.

(11) FROM GONZALO GARCIA TO JAMES REID

BRS member Gonzalo Garcia wrote this July 8, 1992 letter to member James Reid. Unfortunately his letter was returned by the post office for a "wrong address." We therefore print it now for James Reid and other interested readers.

I congratulate you for your thoughtful letter published in RSN, No. 74, May/92.

In the same newsletter I read the editorial invitation to share with BRS members "thoughts" about the Society's goals.

I want you to know that, in RSN, No. 72, Nov. 91, p. 11 was published my letter addressed to former Chairman of the BRS, Mr. Harry Ruja, in which I expressed my ideas to join the BRS. For my part, I also would like to see that the BRS avoid not only "high-minded seriousness," but also its exclusively philosphical posture and try to pursue other BR liberal aims like pacifism, etc.

I'll appreciate your comments on the matter.

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PHILOSOPHER'S CORNER

"Philosopher's Corner" first appeared as a newsletter feature in <u>RSN</u>, No. 75 with an article by Dennis J. Darland. Here is Dennis's second article followed by another on a different subject by Tim St. Vincent. We welcome submissions on any philosophical subject. Thanks to Dennis and Tim for their thoughtful writings.

By Dennis J. Darland

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In the last Philosopher's Corner, I said it was impossible to arrive at the results of science from logic and immediate experience. Why is this so? Russell in <u>Human Knowledge</u> admitted the irrefutability of sceptical solipsism. "From a group of propositions of the form 'A occurs', it is impossible to infer by deductive logic any other proposition asserting the existence of something." Thus the solipsist is sceptical of anything beyond his immediate experience.

This is sufficient to support my conclusion as stated, but I wish to show more. Suppose that it is true that the group G of propositions of the form 'A occurs' are true. Then what is G? According to the solipsist G must be present to immediate experience as well! It would have to possible to find a necessary relation of meaning between the constituents of G and the constituents of the facts to which they correspond. But then it must be possible to infer the existence of these relations from the truth of G. But this contradicts the solipsist's contention. (Russell's analysis of the meaning relation varied. At some points it might have been identity, but even then some further fact must exist when G is believed, such as acquaintance.) I as well have been unable to detect such relations in immediate experience. If the solipsist's position were tenable there would have to be a self evident phenomenology of the meaning relation. Some of Wittgenstein's Philosophical Investigations could be taken as criticisms of such potential phenomenological relations. This does not prove that the solipsist's position is false, but only that he cannot consistently assert his position.

Wittgenstein in the <u>Philosophical Investigations</u> (38): "Naming appears as a <u>queer</u> connexion of a word with an object.--And you really get such a queer connexion when the philosopher tries to bring out the relation between name and thing by staring at the object in front of him and repeating a name or even the word 'this' innumerable times."

I cannot help but repeat here the story of Russell's in <u>Human Knowledge</u>. He tells of receiving "a letter from an eminent logician, Mrs. Christine Ladd Franklin, saying she was a solipsist, and was surprised that there were no others." Her surprise surprised Russell.

Wittgenstein's concern with the relation of a word to its meaning goes back to the Tractatus where the relation is taken to be one of picturing. The picturing relation is maintained to be an internal relation as opposed to Russell's external relation. (Philosophical Remarks [21]). However even by the Philosophical Remarks, Wittgenstein sees that picturing alone is insufficient. "How is a picture meant? The intention never resides in the picture itself, since, no matter how the picture is formed, it can be meant in different ways." (24) Wittgenstein considers various things which could constitute this internal relation (PI [39-201]). He ends up taking (in most cases), the meaning of a word to be its use. "For a large class of cases -though not for all -- in which we employ the word "meaning" it can be defined thus: the meaning of a word is its use in the language." (PI [43]). Unfortunately there is not an internal relation between a word I am aware of and its use. Thus Wittgenstein's criticisms of other potential relations between a word and its meaning apply to his own as well. It may help to consider the use of a word when clarifying the meaning of a word in philosophy, but this use cannot be used to establish or justify one's relation of meaning between word and object.

It is my belief that Russell's analysis of meaning as a causal relation is closer to the truth when one is considering epistemological questions. Although it is not an <u>internal</u> relation as demanded by Wittgenstein, Wittgenstein himself is unable to provide such an <u>internal</u> relation.

Two Dimensional Utilitarianism By Tim St. Vincent

Bertrand Russell thought of Utilitarianism as the moral philosophy that is inspired by feelings of compassion. However it conflicts with another compassion inspired principle, which Russell expressed in "The Fate of the Jews" by writing "That millions should have to put up with minor political disabilities is not so grave an evil as that hundreds should suffer the extreme of torture and agony." I will call this idea the "Principle of Personal Tragedy" (PPT). Two Dimensional Utilitarianism (TDU) reconciles this idea with the idea that one should minimize foreseeable harm.

Imagine that an ultra-reactionary politician proposes a bill outlawing artifical voice boxes. In defense of his bill, he argues that leaving a few people (articial voice box candidates) unable to speak is better than subjecting millions of people to the unpleasant experience of hearing people speak through artifical voice boxes. This bill could be justified on utilitarian grounds, but it is mean-spirited because it violates the Principle of Personal Tragedy.

PPT states that, when all else is equal, having one person suffer a tragedy is worse than having any number of people suffer nuisances. Of course, the concept of personal tragedy should be analyzed. A tragedy is,

in some sense, an unbearable misfortune. I believe that it can be defined as a traumatic experience or something (Ex. death) that would be considered at least as bad as a traumatic experience.

Utilitarianism clashes with the Principle of Personal Tragedy because it allows a large number of nuisances to add up to more harm than one tragedy. TDU resolves this conflict because it claims that harm and suffering are, in principle, measured not by numbers but by pairs of numbers. To see this, consider how chapter and verse are ordered in any book of the Bible. For example, Mark 1:3 comes before Mark 1:5 which comes before Mark 2:1. Now let us consider an imaginary book of the Bible called Jones. If chapter one of Jones had one million verses, then Jones 1:1,000,000 would come before Jones 2:1. In general, I will use the phrase "number pair" to refer to any pair of numbers like 2:30, 500:13, 90:1216, etc. ("number pairs" are called "ordered pairs" in mathematical terminology). In any number pair, I will call the number to the left of the colon the "left number" and I will call the number to the right of the colon the "right number". Thus the left and right numbers of 38:126 are 38 and 126 respectively.

Number pairs are ordered the way they are in the Bible, namely, by using the numerical equivalent of filing two letter names in alphabetical order (mathematicians call this "lexical ordering"). For example, 0:10,000 1:0 because the former number pair has a smaller left number (regardless of what their right numbers are). Also 6:4 6:9 because they have the same left numbers, and therefore their right numbers serve as a tie breaker.

We define the sum of two (or more) number pairs to be the number pair whose left number is the sum of their left numbers and whose right number is the sum of their right numbers. For example, 10:1 + 20:2 = 30.3. This concept of addition naturally leads to a concept of multiplication. To multiply a number pair by a number, simply multiply its left and right numbers by that number. For example, $100 \times 2:3 = 200:300$.

Two Dimensional Utilitarianism requires one to minimize foreseeable harm, but it measures harm and suffering by number pairs. The left numbers represent the amount of tragedy and the right numbers represent the amount of nuisance. To return to our artificial voice box example, loss of the ability to speak would be a tragedy and might be represented by 3:0 (3 units of tragedy, 0 units of nuisance). Listening to someone speak through an artificial voice box would be a nuisance and might be represented by 0:1 (0 units of tragedy, 1 unit of nuisance). If one million people listened to artificial voice box speech, that would amount to 1,000,000 x 0:1 = 0:1,000,000 which is less than 3:0. If any number of people listened, that would amount to any # x 0:1 = 0:any # which is still less than 3:0. In general, the Principle of Personal Tragedy follows from TDU.

When harm and suffering are measured by number pairs, the left numbers represent the "amount of tragedy". This phrase sounds odd, but it makes sense when analyzed. A more severe tragedy is often equivalent to two or more lesser tragedies. For example, having one person loose both legs might be worse than having two people loose one leg each. Also, a great risk of tragedy is often equivalent to an actual tragedy. Subjecting someone to a 90% chance of death is worse than having any number of people suffer nuisances.

It is also clear that the amount of tragedy is, in principle, capable of being measured exclusively by whole numbers. If a given tragedy constitutes one unit of tragedy, there's no such thing as one trillionth of a unit of tragedy. Nuisance is also capable of being measured exclusively by whole numbers. There's no such thing as extremely small fractions of a unit of nuisance, because they couldn't be perceived.

One possible objection to TDU is that it apparently justifies some ridiculous prohibitions. For example, it might seem to prohibit recreational driving, because the enjoyment this activity gives to countless people would seem to be outweighed by the fact that it results in some tragic accidents. However, if we carry this line of reasoning to its full conclusion, it gets TDU off the hook. First of all, it would seem to justify the elimination of all athletic activities, but doing so would cause more fatalities than it would prevent due to an increase in poor health. Secondly, this type of reasoning seems to prohibit all fun activities, which would result in megatragedy, because it would make life unbearable. TDU says that, when all else is equal, one tragedy is worse than any number of nuisances.

The ethical system I am outlining implies that a tragedy has infinite negative weight when compared to a nuisance. In other words, a tragedy (in particular, a death) is a loss of infinite value. TDU therefore provides a secular foundation for belief in "The Infinite Value Of A Human Life."

TDU also justifies the adage that "you can't put a price on a human life." However, this saying needs to be analyzed. It doesn't mean that society should part with unlimited amounts of money in order to save a person's life. Doing so would result in other deaths through destruction of the economy. It does mean that the value of a human life cannot be expressed in terms of dollars and cents. A given amount of money can have finite or infinite value depending on how it is spent. For example, one million dollars can buy ice cream cones for several hundred thousand people, or it can save a few people from life threatening illnesses.

Bertrand Russell spoke out against cruelty in many of his writings. In particular, he expressed concern about situations in which groups oppress individuals. A good intellectual foundation for these values is provided by Two Dimensional Utilitarianism.

(13)

"PRIZES FOR PAPERS" COMPETITION

Be sure to see the announcement of the BRS's new "Prizes for Papers" competition as described by Vice President John Lenz in Section 2, Page 3. Interested authors are heartily encouraged to take part. We look forward to seeing the 1993 winners in San Diego at the next BRS Annual Meeting!

(14) TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Dennis J. Darland submitted this report for the quarter ending September 30, 1992.

Balance on	Hand, June 30, 1992	\$5,947.46
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(15)

BRS LIBRARY

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1.<u>Books for sale</u>. H-Cloth, otherwise paperback. R-Remaindered by Simon & Schuster. With the exception of the remainder mark on the bottom edge, these remaindered books are in fine condition. Prices are postpaid. Please send your check or money order (U.S. funds) payable to "Bertrand Russell Society" to Tom Stanley at the above address.

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BY OTHER AUTHORS:

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2. AUDIOCASSETTES

Speeches:

(Write to the BRS Library for loan information.)

200 Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech. 1950 201 "Living in the Atomic Age". Six BBC broadcasts. 1951 202 "Man's Peril". BBC 1954

203 Russell-Einstein Manifesto, 1955

204 "Address to the CND". 1959

205 "Appeal to the American Conscience". 1966

206 Address to the Berkley Vietnam Teach-In. 1965

207 "Life Without Fear". 1951

208 "Portrait from Memory: Whitehead" BBC 1952

209 "Mind and Matter". 1950

210 "Bertrand Russell in Australia". Four ABC broadcasts. 1950

211 "The World and the Observer". BBC 1958

212 "The Influence and Thought of G.E. Moore" BBC 1959

213 Kalinga Prize Press Conference and Acceptance Speech. 1958

Interviews, debates:

225 "Is Security Increasing?". NBC 1939

Russell-Copleston Debate on the Existence of God. BBC 1949 226

- 227 "Bertrand Russell". Romney Wheeler Interview. NBC 1952
- 228 "Face to Face". John Freeman Interview. BBC 1959
- 229 "Bertrand Russell Speaking". Interviews by Woodrow Wyatt on philosophy, taboo morality, religion, and fanaticism. 1959
- Woodrow Wyatt Interviews (I). On the role of the individual, 230
- happiness, power, and the future of mankind. 1959 "Close-Up". Elaine Grand Interview. CBC 1959
- 231
- 232 "Speaking Personally: Bertrand Russell". John Chandos Interview. 1961
- David Susskind Interview. 1962 233
- 234 "On Nuclear Morality". Michael Tiger Interview. 1962
- 235 Interview on Vietnam. CBC 1965
- Studs Terkel Interview. WFMT 1962 236
- 237 Woodrow Wyatt Interviews(II). On nationalism, Great Britain, communism and capitalism, war and pacifism, and the H-bomb. 1959
- Merv Griffin Interview. 1965. 238

Lectures, broadcasts:

250 "Bertrand Russell". Rev. Paul Beattie. 1975

251 "Bertrand Russell as a Philosopher. A.J. Ayer. BBC 1980

252 "Bertrand Russell". Prof. Giovanni Costigan. 1986.

253 "Portrait of the Father as Philosopher". Katherine Tait. (In German)

254 "Bertrand Russell's Pacifist Stance in World War I". CFMU-FM 1992.

Documentaries:

275 "The Life and Times of Bertrand Russell". Soundtrack of BBC film. 1962. 276 "Sound Portrait of Bertrand Russell". NPR dramatization. 1980

277 "Bertie and the Bomb". Soundtrack of BBC television program. 1984.

- 278 Beatrice Webb on the Russells/ Russell on the Webbs. Russell reads his 1966 evaluation of the Webbs.

279 "Bertrand Russell: A Reassessment". 1980

Miscellaneous:

300 "Sinfonia Contra Timore" by Graham Whettam. Dedicated to Russell.

301 "The Conscience of Wisdom". CBC 1961

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RUSSELL FROM ROUTLEDGE

On this and the next page are current advertisements for Russell books available from the Routledge publishing company, London.



Abridged edition now in paper

Theory of Knowledge The 1913 Manuscript

Bertrand Russell

Edited by Elizabeth Ramsden Eames and Kenneth Blackwell

With an Introduction by Elizabeth Ramsden Eames

First published in 1984 as part of The Collected Papers of Bertrand Russell, and still available from Routlege (see Volume 7, below), Theory of Knowledge represents an important addition to our knowledge of Russell's thought. In this work Russell attempts to flesh out the sketch implicit in The Problems of Philosophy. It was conceived by Russell as his next major project after Principia Mathematica and was intended to provide the epistemological foundations for his work. Russell's subsequent difficulties in presenting his theory of knowledge, brought on by what he considered to be devastating criticisms of Wittgenstein, led to both his abandonment of this work and to a major transformation in his thought.

Theory of Knowledge, now available for the first time in paperback, gives us a picture of one of the great minds of the twentieth century at work. It is possible to see the unsolved problems left without disguise or evasion. This second edition has retained the full scholarly introduction. The photographs of the manuscript, appendices, and notes on textual matters have been eliminated to provide a concise and accessible guide to understanding both Russell's own thought and his relationship with Wittgenstein.

Elizabeth Ramsden Eames teaches at Southern Illinois University. Kenneth Blackwell teaches at McMaster University.

Routledge

August: 5-1/2 x 8-1/2: 264 pp Paper: 0 415 08298 6: #A7942: \$16.95/F [Can. pb \$21.50/F]



From The Collected Papers of Bertrand Russell

The McMaster University Edition in twenty-eight volumes General Editor: John Passmore

The Collected Papers of Bertrand Russell, published in association with McMaster University, provides a complete, reliable, critical annotated edition arranged on the soundest principles. This arrangement recognizes the division between Russell's technical writings on philosophy and logic and the other non-technical writings. It also succeeds in placing the material in approximate chronological order so that the development of Russell's thought can be traced and the many links between his popular and technical writings can be identified.

Logical and Philosophical Papers 1909-1913 Volume 6

Bertrand Russell

Edited by John G. Slater, with the assistance of Bernd Frohmann

The years 1909-1913 were among the most productive, philosophically speaking, of Bertrand Russell's entire career. In addition to the papers reprinted in this volume, he brought *Principia Mathematica* to its finished form and wrote *The Problems of Philosophy, Theory of Knowledge* and *Our Knowledge of the External World*.

John G. Slater is Professor of Philosophy and Bernd Frohmann is Assistant Professor, Faculty of Library and Information Science, both at the University of Toronto.

Routledge

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Unabridged Edition Theory of Knowledge The 1913 Manuscript Volume 7 Bertrand Russell Edited by Elizabeth Ramsden Eames and Kenneth Blackwell

Unwin Hyman Academic 1988: 5-1/2 x 8-1/2: 314 pp Cloth: 0 04 920073 9: *A9+15: \$171.50 X [Can cl \$214 50 X]

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Bertrand Russell Paperbacks



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companion volume to The Analysis of Mind, which has provided a similar service to psychology. In an attempt to demonstrate the logical structure of the world, Russell develops views about the philosophy of

science out of the theories of such scientists as Einstein, Bohr and Heisenberg. The whole book is candid and

the whole book is called and stimulating and for both its subject and its treatment, one of the best that Mr Russell has given us. '- THE TIMES May 1992: 424pp

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Russell's intellect, the elegance of his prose and the causticity of his wit. He is the Voltaire of his time, and one tikes him or dislikes him accordingly.' - SURDAY TIMES May 1992: 248pp Pb: 0415-08300-1:\$10.99



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with Wittgenstein

Routledge also publish The Collected Papers of Bertrand Russell: The McMaster University Edition. Seven volumes have already been published, with Volume 6 Logical and Philosophical Papers (1909-13) to be published in 1992.

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A NEW NOAM CHOMSKY BOOK

Ophelia Hoopes recommends <u>Chronicles of Dissent</u>, published in 1992 by Common Courage Press. Here is an advertisement for this book, supplied by Ophelia.

Chronicles of Dissent

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Interviews with David Barsamian Introduction by Alexander Cockburn \$16.95 pbk, \$39.95 cloth

Topics covered by the interviews, conducted from 1986 through the present include:

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and many other issues.

Noam Chomsky On Human Freedom:

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must have spoken to more American students than any other person alive—Chomsky has offered the assurance, the intellectual and moral authority, that there is another way of looking at things. In this vital function he stands in the same relationship to his audience as did a philosopher he admires greatly, Bertrand Russell."

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DEATH OF MILLICENT FENWICK

Dennis Darland and Warren Smith sent us respectively the Associated Press and <u>New York Times</u> obituaries for Millicent Fenwick, who died on September 16, 1992. Here are excerpts from the <u>NYT</u> obituary:

Millicent H. Fenwick, a retired Repubican Congresswoman renowned for her political independence and championing of liberal causes, died ... in Bernardsville, N.J. She was 82....she studied philosophy under Bertrand Russell at the New School for Social Research....

CHRONICLES OF DISSENT

(19)

FOR SALE

These items are for sale from the BRS Information Committee, 1664 Pleasant View Road, Coopersburg, PA 18036:

--BR Postcard. 1959 photo by Philippe Halsman. \$1 for the first one, 75c for more ordered at the same time.

--<u>Members' Stationery</u>. 8 1/2 x 11, white, across the top: "The good life is one inspired by love and guided by knowledge. Bertrand Russell." USA \$6 for 80 sheets; other countries, \$8 for 80 sheets.

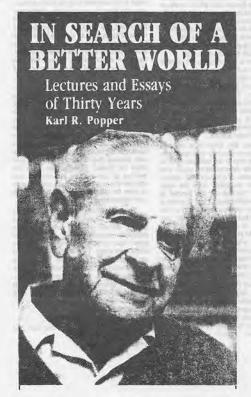
In addition to its other offerings, the BRS Library, Box 434, Wilder, VT 05088 now has this title available for sale:

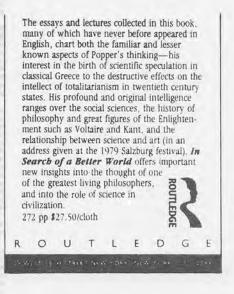
Liberty and Social Transformation: A Study in Bertrand Russell's Political Thought by Chandrakala Padia. Harry Ruja says, "She supports her position most persuasively." The author is the creator of the Benares Chapter of The Bertrand Russell Society. 151 pages, hardbound. \$11.50 postpaid.

(20)

A NEW KARL POPPER BOOK

This advertisement for Sir Karl Popper's <u>In Search of a Better World:</u> Lectures and Essays of Thirty Years appeared in <u>The New York Review of Books</u>, November 19, 1992, p. 54. Sir Karl was the recipient of the 1992 BRS Award.





RUSSELL SOCIETY NEWS, No. 76

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MORE SELECTED LETTERS REVIEWS

<u>RSN</u>, No. 75 (August 1992) included two British newspaper reviews of <u>The</u> <u>Selected Letters of Bertrand Russell</u>, edited by Nicholas Griffin. Prof. Griffin was the recipient of the 1992 BRS Book Award for this fine work. Here are three recent American newspaper reviews supplied by Bob Davis, Tim Madigan, and Marvin Kohl. We would appreciate learning about reviews of <u>The</u> Selected Works appearing in other publications.

A Philosopher in Love

By JAMES BOWMAN

Wall Street Journal,

September 29, 1992.

Apart from its intrinsic interest, the first volume of "The Selected Letters of Bertrand Russell," ably edited by Nicholas Griffin (Houghton Mifflin, 533 pages, 535), is worth reading because of the gratifying surprise it gives us to find that really smart people can be just as screwed up as we can be. It is reassuring to read Russell's own, contemporary account of his passage from childhood to midilie crisis and never once see any evidence that the great philosopher was less helpless than we are when the good life eluded him. Maybe more helpless.

We know that he was a great philosopher because he wrote books like "The Principles of Mathematics" and, just for variety, the "Principla Mathematica" (cosuthored with Alfred North Whitehead) hat only really smart people can underand. He was also the teacher and mentor if Ludwig Wittgenstein – another unbalunced philosopher who was undoubtedly one of the two or three smartest people to have lived in this century. Of Wittgenstein, Russell writes: "In discussion with him I put out all my force and only just equal his. With all my other pupils I should squash them flat if did so." But in a volume of letters that covers

But in a volume of letters that covers the years—from the time he was 12 until he was 42 — when Russell did all the work on which his reputation for philosophical brilliance rests, most of the space is devoted to his love letters to fwo women: Alys Pearsall Smith, whom he married in 1894, and Lady Ottoline Morell, with whom he had a passionate affair begrinning in 1911.

passionate affair beginning in 1911. With Alys he is fastidious to the point of priggery, and only partly in response to her exaggeratedly Victorian sensitivities about sex. "As to frequency." he writes to allay her fears, "I am sure it ought not to be great." With Lady Ottoline he abandons himself to passion to the point of obsession, but through it all there is a kind of astonishing naivete that reminds me-forgive me-of Woody Allen's.

Like Russell, Mr. Allen is a talented man more than commonly susceptible to female charms who is too self-absorbed to notice when his desires have taken him beyond the bounds of decency. Mr. Allen's insistence that the affair with his stepdaughter had "turned my life around in wonderfully positive ways" was in a way a translation into modern therapyese of the self-delusion that in Russell's day expressed itself in moral terms. Here the philosopher and philanthropist explains to Lady Ottoline why he has had an affair with a young American woman hy writing: "The inpulse that came over me was like the impulse to rescue a drowning person, and I am sure I was right to follow it."

It is not as if Russell had no idea that Lady Ottoline might have minded about his unfaithfulness because he told his new lover that ''I cared for someone else with whom I would not break,'' and ''she did not mind that.'' As for Lady Ottoline's minding. ''I suppose if must give you some pain," he wrote, "but I hope not very much if I can make you believe it is all right, and that she is not the usual type of American. The whole family are extraordinarily nice people." Well, that must have been a relief to her!

There is less excuse for this, from a mature man, than for his insensitivities toward Alys when he was only 22. In one letter, written after they had started adressing each other with the ungrammatical Quaker "thee," for example, he tried to reassure her about the disparity in their intellects by writing: "Of course one doesn't imagine thee would do any bril tiant original thinking, but thee might form part of the indispensable intelligent audience."

And lucky to be there too, I suppose. But with both women he reveals how com-



"The Selected Letters of Bertrand Russell"

Edited by Nicholas Griffin

pletely he had to live inside himself in order to accomplish what he did in philosophy and how ill-equipped this "logic machine," as he describes himself in his first letter to Lady Ottoline, was for the real world. That is also no doubt why, later in life, Russell came to hold some really idloitic political views as a socialist pacifist, though it is interesting to read here his youthful defenses of free trade and even of British imperialism during the Boer War.

He began to change, however, in 1901, when he experienced a series of epiphanies by which he realized that (1) the only thing worth living for was human sympathy to break through the shell of loneliness that we all inhabit, (2) the Boers were right and the British were wrong and (3) he no longer loved his wife. It says something about historical perspective that most people now assume that these were progressive steps for Russell because they were the making of the mature philosopher and ethicist whom we remember. Another way to view the matter, however, is that such self-righteousness ultimately ruined him.

For the little prig who wrote to Alys that he hated the sensuality of Paris and had grown "alimost morbidly sensitive to the minutest impurity of thought, word or deed" was ready to be corrupted by a sense of his own virtue. That is how he arrived at an ungraceful. Toistoy-like old age in which he tried to ban the bomb and put the U.S. on trial for war crimes in Vietnam. But it is less surprising to discover that academic brainpower can co-exist with complete political innocence.

Somehow we knew that.

Mr. Bowman is the American editor of the TLS of London

Ferociously Longing for Lady Ottoline

THE SELECTED LETTERS **OF BERTRAND RUSSELL** Volume One: The Private Years, 1884-1914. Edited by Nicholas Griffin. 553 pp. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. \$35.

By Arthur C. Danto

Bertrand Russell's writing, at its most characteristic, was clear, crafty, witty and compressed; but when he was bent on the edification of his readers, or himself, he employed the Sunday-morn-ing style of the Victorian sage. In the opening credo of his "Autobiography," for example, under the title of his "Autoblography," for example, under the title "What I Have Lived For," he wrote is the same tones he employed in his famous essay "The Free Man's Worship". "Three passions, simple but over-whelmingly strong, have governed my life: the long-ing for love, the search for knowledge, and unbear-able pity for the suffering of mankind." It is the first of these passions that dominates

Arthur C. Danto, the Johnsonian Professor of Philosophy at Columbia University, is the author of the forthcoming "Beyond the Brillo Box: Art in the Post-Historical Period." "The Selected Letters of Bertrand Russell," culled from a period that ends with World War I, when Russell became very much the public figure of his wider reputation. In the first instance it is Russell as e meet in these letters, and secondarily over lover we meet in these letters, and seconarily Russell as mathematical philosopher and logician. The humanitarian has not yet emerged, though there is a memorable passage from the "Autoblog-raphy," cited in the unfailingly helpful narrative notes by Nicholas Griffin, the editor, in which Rus-notes by Nicholas Griffin, the editor, in which Russell recalled how the fact of suffering was disclosed to him in a kind of mystical revelation. This was in 1901, when he and his first wife, Alys, shared a house with Alfred North Whitehead and his wife, Evelyn, Continued on page 21

Ferociously Longing for Lady Ottoline Continued from page 1



Bertrand Russell in 1916.

who was becoming an invalid because of a kind of angina. One day, he says, she "seemed cut off from everyone and everything by walls of agony, and the sense of the solitude of each human soul suddenly overwhelmed me." Up until that moment, he goes on to say, "I had forgotten all the deeper issues, and had been content with flippant cleverness

Now he became convinced that loneliness can be penetrated by nothing "except the highest intensity of the sort of love that religious teachers have preached." Notwithstanding this shattering perception, it is hu-man love, even what Nietzsche would call human-all-too-human love, that he lived for. And this clearly included sexual ecstasy - "ecstasy so great that I would often have sacrificed all the rest of life for a few hours of this joy."

These are selected letters rather than selected correspondence. Russell concludes each chapter of the "Autobiography" with a portfolio of letters, but even after the chapter in which he discloses his intense love affair with Lady Ottoline Morrell, the letters are from Santayana, the classical scholar Jane Harrison, Mary Berenson (his sister-in-law), Gilbert Murray, the mathematician Georg Cantor, Joseph Conrad, Rabindranath Ta-gore and like members of an intellectual fast set to which Russell happily belonged. But the letters Mr. Griffin, a professor of philosophy at McMaster University in Ontario, has

selected from these years are almost entire ly addressed to Lady Ottoline, the celebrated hostess to celebrities whom he met in 1910 when he was active in an election campaign for her husband, Philip Morrell, a Liberal Member of Parliament. In the letters Russell does everything he can to secure a total erotic commitment from a woman who was not altogether unhappily married, and who was in any case reluctant to give up her other lovers or sacrifice her swanky life style and domestic security. She was flattered - "honownessue security, sine was inattered — "non-ored" seems not quite the right word when what Russell refers to as "full relations" were involved — to be the object of a great man's love. But she was far from ready for the total surrender Russell considered the only reserved enders to him only response adequate to his own passionate yearning.

ate yearning. Years ago, when I first read the "Autobiog-raphy," I felt Russell was to be envied as much for having been Lady Ottoline's lover as for having written "Principia Mathema-tica," but now I see that this was in part because of Russell's way of writing about the affair, which focuses on an intense three days of physical and spiritual fulfillment that "remain in my memory as among the few moments when life seemed all that it might be, but hardly ever is." The affair consisted of a great many more

moments when there was anguish and de-spair, and we are able to experience the bumpy reality of the affair through Russell's

'I Want to Keep You'

[To Lady Ottoline Morrell]

Now I will make up an exact statement, and please keep it in mind however dumb I may be, because it is at all times true.

may be, because it is at all times true.
1.1 want to keep you and I want not to ruin your life..., Compared to these two, all other things in life are trivial to me. Don't doubt this.
2.1 want to accomplish, during my life, a good deal more work in philosophy....
3.1 want to write general things on religion and morals and popular philosophy.
1 could do this even if I were discredited, because I could publish anonymously. I can imagine a sermon on Strife..., and innumerable things of that sort.
4.1 life teaching hut that is heacher that the secret in the secr

4. Title teaching, but that is inessential. I have put these four in order of importance, the most important first. . . . Whatever I have put these four in order of importance, the most important first.... Whatever may be involved in our holding to each other, the harm to me will be less than if we parted. I believe seriously that the spring of life would be broken in me if we parted.... If I have you, there are other goods that may be added; if I don't have you, there are no other goods.... I have never imagined such love. I have had the feeling too that I ought to keep it back from you, so as not to interfere with your freedom — but I can't.... With you there is life and joy and peace and all good things — away from you there is turmoil and anguish and blank despair. From "The Selected Letters of Bertrand Russelt."

Lady Ottoline Morrell in 1903.

many letters - he wrote at least a letter wary letters — he wrote at least a letter every day tokoluteline — and through Mr. Griffin's valuable "meanwhile-at-Lady-Otto-line's" other side of the affair. Moreover, as Russell's ferocity of longing was obliged to subside, more and more of the intellectual side of his life got reported on, including his encounter with "my German," Ludwig Wittgenstein. Mr. Griffin is particularly good at explaining such things as Russell's response to a devastating criticism of his theory of knowledge by Wittgenstein, who demonstrated its inconsistency with a central strategy of Russell's logic. It is criticism of a kind that would have been unthinkable before the professionalization of philosophy, a transforma-tion with which Russell must be very largely credited

UT the book is essentially Russell's sentimental education, seen from within. The story of his love for Lady Ottoline is the second main chapter here, the first one being his falling in and then out of love with his first wife, Alys Descell Sentith the durather of a waither Pearsall Smith, the daughter of a wealthy Philadelphia couple who had migrated to Philadelphia couple who had ingrated to Britain (her lister, Mary, became the wife of Bernard Berenson). There is something touching in their ignorance of sex. Alys, Rus-sell later wrote, had been brought up "to think that sex was beastly, that all women hated it, and that men's brutal lusts were the chief obstacles to happiness in marriage." In the event, Alys appears to have been as fully responsive as Ottoline only was sporadically. She did not need Russell's rather priggish reassurances: "As to frequency, I am sure it ought not to be great," he wrote in one pre-nuptial note, and, "I don't believe we shall find coition such an absolutely different thing from previous physical things." It was and they did.

By putting love at the center of his selec-tion and almost as its criterion, Mr. Griffin has produced a very human document. Russell shows himself to be very much like men very much less clever than himself, and that is perhaps the chief criticism to be made of the book. Love letters finally cloy, and some-how when the humanity Russell shares with us is underscored, the philosopher himself somewhat cloys - especially with the "thee" somewnat cloys — especially with the "thee" and "thine" of his correspondence with Alys, who as a Quaker attached a measure of intimacy to the use of these pronouns. Rus-sell as lover writes more in the manner of his lay sermose then with the lay sermons than with the smart dash and sparkle of his public self.

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THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

Tuesday, August 25, 1992





Personal Letters Reveal a Life Story

By Merle Rubin

ERTRAND RUSSELL was a profoundly influential D ligure in 20th-century philosophy - and one of the most visible spokesmen for radical causes from women's suffrage to nuclear disarmament.

He was, moreover, an extraordinarily fecund correspondent. The letters chosen by editor Nicholas Griffin in "The Selected Letters of Bertrand Russell" represent only a fraction of the material in the Russell archives, but well-represent Russell's brilliant, erratic personality.

A grandson of Lord John Russell, the champion of parliamentary reform who served twice as Queen Victoria's prime minister, Bertrand Russell (1872-1970) continued in his family tradition of working for political progress while reinventing the foundations of philosophy.

Although his groundbreaking work in analytical philosophy is comprehensible to only a small number of people, Russell was known among his peers and students as a brilliant, pithy, lucid, and witty prose stylist, who made these all-but-incomprehensible concepts as comprehensible as humanly possible. Russell is one of the few philosophers ever to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, which he won in 1950.

works as "Principia Mathematica" (in which Russell, along with his collaborator Alfred North Whitehead, laid out the logical and philosophical foundations of mathematics through the use of symbolic logic), Russell wrote numerous popular books and essays on philosophy, politics, and education that eloquently addressed a more general audience.

Russell was often in the thick of political controversy throughout his 97 years. Free trade, social reform, women's rights, birth control, nuclear-arms control, and sex education were among his many causes. He was a courageously outspoken critic of British jingoism in World War I. In 1940, he was fired from a teaching post at City College of New York on the charge that his freethinking views were a threat to student morals.

Ironically, in view of his lifelong devotion as a philosopher to establishing solid, incontrovertible groundworks for any system ried to Alys) fell wildly in love of thought, Russell was a man of many contradictions. In the period covered by these letters, we can discern his keen gift for analysis, his emotional volatility, and a pattern of abrupt changes in the way he perceived himself and the world in which he lived.

Young Russell initially supported his government in the Boer War on the grounds that the British Empire was a force for are among the main events cov- views literature and contem-

In addition to such seminal calls it in a letter to French philos- "The Private Years." opher Louis Couturat in 1900. But as the war dragged on, Rus- philosophy, has huited has selecsell - as he later confided in a letter to Lady Ottiline Morrell had "a sudden 'conversion.' a change of heart, which brought with it a love of humanity and a horror of force, and incidentally made me a pro-Boer."

Sudden conversions were a hallmark in the emotional life of this supremely rationalistic philosopher. He fell in love with his

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THE SELECTED LETTERS OF BERTRAND RUSSELL, VOL. 1: THE PRIVATE YEARS, 1884-1914 Edited by Nicholas Griffin Houghton Mifflin, 553 pp., \$35

first wife, Alys Pearsall Smith, at first sight, only to discover himself out of love with her seven years into their marriage. Nearly a decade later, Russell (still marwith Lady Morrell, who would later gain fame as a political-literary hostess and arts patron.

courtship of Alys, his attempts at formulating a "logical" foundation for mathematics, his intimate friendships with sympathetic, intellectual women, his increasingly troubled marriage, and his passionate love affair with Morrell

Griffin, himself a professor of tions (with the single exception of Russell's first letter to the German mathematician Gottlob Frege) to those that have not previously been published in full. Letters dealing with the more technical aspects of philosophy have also been omitted, leaving an astonishing collection of intensely revealing, self-scrutinizing, profoundly personal letters. which, coupled with Griffin's fine notes and lively commentary, unfold a life story with all the psychological drama and detail of a Russian novel.

Those who are puzzled by the fact that wise and brilliant people often make foolish choices will find a great deal of food for thought in these letters, not the least of which is this observation by Russell himself: "I believe that it is impossible to apply theoretical ethics to politics, or even to private life, for the circumstances are so complicated that one would not know how to do the necessary reasoning. It is necessary, therefore, to appeal directly Russell's adolescence, his long to common sense for middle a.rioms." But as Russell's letters eloquently illustrate, the search for common-sense solutions can sometimes be as ardnous as the conquest of symbolic logic.

Merle Rubin regularly repeace: A "war of defence," he ered in these letters, aptly entitled porary fiction for the Monitor.

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SUGGESTED READING ABOUT I.F. STONE

We recently received this good letter from James Woodrow. You might want to follow his suggestion about seeking out a copy of the mentioned I.F. Stone biography.

Some may not realize that the first three subscribers to I.F. Stone's Weekly were Bertrand Russell, Albert Einstein, and Eleanor Roosevelt. The yearly subscription was \$5, and never was raised. Verification can be had in I.F. Stone by Andrew Patner. A biography and very interesting. 1988, Pantheon Books, ISBN 0-394-55808-1.

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NICHOLAS GRIFFIN ON ALYS RUSSELL

After being presented the 1992 BRS Book Award at our Washington Annual Meeting, Prof. Nicholas Griffin of McMaster University read his paper, "Alys." Here is that paper's abstract submitted by Prof. Griffin.

Alys

Bertrand Russell's first marriage, to Alys Pearsall Smith, has an aspect of paradox to it. The marriage itself took place despite the implacable opposition of Russell's powerful and manipulative family. It had little to sustain it at first beyond a romantic and a rather ethereal love, and the couple's conviction that they would break with the Victorian past and embrace turn of the century feminist principles in their relationship. For several years, it was a happy and highly productive relationship and many who knew them came to think of them as an ideal example of a modern young couple.

Yet in 1901 Russell fell out of love with Alys, in circumstances which have never properly been explained, and, though they continued to live together for another 10 years and remained married for 10 years after that, their marriage was effectively dead from that point on. Alys was completely broken by these events and Bertie was thrown into near suicidal depression. With this outcome, biographers have been harsh on the marriage, suggesting that it was loveless from the start and that Bertie treated Alys abysmally throughout. This view has arisen, I believe, because biographers have treated the marriage almost exclusively from Bertie's point of view: seeing Alys as a largely passive, unknown quantity whose marriage was shaped for her entirely by her husband. In my edition of Russell's <u>Selected Letters</u> Russell inevitably occupies centre stage; in my paper, I put Alys at the centre, and show that, while the results were no less tragic, she was both strong-willed and independent-minded and by no means the merely passive victim she has been portrayed as being.

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A NEW OTTOLINE MORRELL BIOGRAPHY

Warren Smith has sent us this book review appearing in The Economist, October 10, 1992, p. 113.

Bloomsbury set Woman scorned

OTTOLINE MORRELL. By Miranda Seymour. Hodder & Stoughton; 452 pages; £25 and \$45

YOUNG Ludwig Wittgenstein suffered the first of several nervous breakdowns while teaching at Cambridge in 1913. Fearing for his protégé's sanity, Bertrand Russell turned for advice to his mistress in London. Her reply was swift and unquestioning. What Wittgenstein needed, she said, was hot chocolate. She enclosed a large packet of cocoa tablets accordingly.

The mistress's name was Ottoline Morrell, and her prescription of cocoa for Wittgenstein's existential doubts sums her life up nicely. The greatest of all the Bloomsbury salonistes, she managed somehow to avoid being tainted by Bloomsbury's pretensions. When Russell himself threatened insanity, "Ott" dismissed it briskly as "nerves"; when he persisted, she conceded that it might be "toothache". Appointing herself unofficial nanny to London's avant garde, she fed (and, not infrequently, slept with) penurious novelists and painters by the dozen. Like so many nannies before her, she had her hand bitten by way of thanks.

Not least of the biters was D.H. Lawrence. Having spent several omnivorous months, free, at Garsington, Lawrence repaid his hostess's generosity by portraying her as the "macabre", "ghastly" and "repulsive" Hermione Roddice in "Women in Love". Not to be outdone, a similarly wellfed Aldous Huxley satirised the Garsington menage in "Crome Yellow"; Lady Ottoline, lightly disguised as Patricia Wimbush, looked, he said, "like Wilkie Collins in a red wig". Taking up the refrain, Osbert Sitwell and a legion of other lesser scribblers joined in the Bloomsbury game of throwing Lady Ottoline to the Woolfs with gusto.

This biography by Miranda Seymour, a reviewer for The Economist, is the first to show that their ridicule was unfair as well as ungracious. Even if claims for Ott's humanising influence on Russell's philosophy seem a little far-fetched, her function as a fixer is impressive. She was alone in supporting Nijinsky and the first Mrs T.S. Eliot (whom she did not even greatly like) in their respective madnesses. Miss Seymour also gives proper due to Lady Ottoline's early appreciation of avant garde French painting, and to her role in setting up the Contemporary Art Society to popularise it in Britain. "I brought them all my rich gifts," wrote an older and sadder Lady Ottoline of the Bloomsburyites. "They pecked me with their sharp beaks." She deserved better.

Charles Darwent

RUSSELL SOCIETY NEWS, No. 76

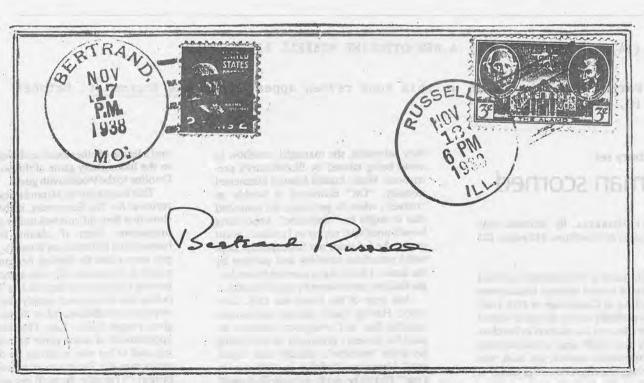
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PHILATELIC RUSSELL

<u>RSN</u>, No. 21 (February 1979) and No. 22 (May 1979) reported on the Bertrand Russell postage stamp issued by India on September 16, 1972. To our knowledge, that stamp remains the only philatelic tribute to BR. (When might the United Kingdom get around to issuing a BR stamp?)

Recently Don Jackanicz purchased the hand-cancelled autographed topical cover (in non-philatelic language, the envelope) reproduced below. Note the two U.S. Post Office cancellations in Bertrand, Missouri on November 17, 1938 and Russell, Illinois on November 12, 1938. These small towns are located in southeastern Missouri and northeastern Illinois. Except for their names, there appears to be no connection between BR himself and these towns. It is not known to Don who first visited the Russell and Bertrand Post Offices to request stamp cancellation and then approached BR for his signature. (Or was it the other way around, i.e. BR signed before the cancellations?) In late 1938, BR was a Visiting Professor of Philosophy at the University of Chicago. So perhaps the explanation would relate to some Chicago area philatelist who was also a BR admirer.

Does anyone else have any "Philatelic Russell" information to share?



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WALTER ARNSTEIN VISITS BERTRAND RUSSELL

On October 20, 1992, Prof. Walter Arnstein of the University of Illinois, Urbana described his correspondence and visit with Russell at the monthly meeting of the University's British History Association. Prof. Arnstein is a well known scholar in 19th and 20th century British history. Among his varied writings is Britain Yesterday and Today: 1830 to the Present, widely used as a college text.

Prof. Arnstein primarily spoke about his March 1957 visit to Russell's home during which Arnstein's dissertation research on what became his book <u>The</u> <u>Bradlaugh Case</u> was the major matter discussed. To set all of this in better perspective, we quote from Britain Yesterday and Today, 1971 edition, p. 129:

The reforms of the second Gladstone ministry, real as they were, tended to be overshadowed in the public press by a series of domestic and foreign frustrations. An especially plaguing problem for Gladstone was the case of Charles Bradlaugh (1833-1891), notorious atheist and advocate of birth control, who was not permitted by the House of Commons to take the required parliamentary oath and who was thereby prevented from taking the seat for which the electors of the Borough of Northampton had chosen him in 1880. His case aroused a flood of emotional oratory and testified to the continued significance in the Britain of the 1880s of organized religion and the Victorian canons of respectability. Gladstone found it distasteful to defend the constitutional rights of a man whose atheistic convictions he found abhorrent; but when it proved impossible to defer the matter to the courts, he supported, in one of his most eloquent speeches, the Affirmation Bill of 1883. The bill would have granted Bradlaugh, and all other MPs, the right to affirm, rather than to swear, their loyalty to the crown; but public opinion was too hostile at the time to permit the bill to pass. Bradlaugh, whose Northampton constituents repeatedly elected him, was finally admitted to the House of Commons in 1886, and he secured the passage of a permanent affirmation bill in 1888. Thus Parliament, which has been opened to Roman Catholics in the 1820s and to professing Jews in the 1850s, was thrown open to avowed atheists in the 1880s.

In addition to describing Russell's reminiscences of persons connected with the Bradlaugh case and the nature of his visit to Russell's home, in his presentation Prof. Arnstein attempted to place Russell within British history and British thought.

Thanks to Steve Shafer for reporting on Prof. Arnstein's talk. We hope that Steve may be able to persuade Prof. Arnstein to set his talk into written form for possible use in <u>Russell Society News</u> or <u>Russell: The Journal of the</u> <u>Bertrand Russell Archives</u>. From Steve's account, Prof. Arnstein's talk was enthusiastically received by those attending, so we can expect a written version to be worth waiting for. RUSSELL SOCIETY NEWS, No. 76

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RUSSELL MAKES PAGE ONE IN MONTREAL

Here is the top half of page one of the September 13, 1992 issue of <u>The</u> [Montreal] Gazette. Note the Russell quotation in the upper left hand corner. It's gratifying to see Russell featured on page one of a major newspaper, but can anyone identify the source of this quotation?



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1993 ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT SHEET

Enclosed with this <u>RSN</u> is a blue sheet announcing the 1993 Annual Meeting and calling for papers. For publicity purposes, members are welcome to post this sheet (feel free to make copies) in appropriate settings such as libraries and colleges. We are mailing copies to numerous schools and institutions.