

RUSSELL SOCIETY NEWS

No. 77, February 1993

The Bertrand Russell Society, Inc.

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

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 or membership in The Bertrand Russell Society should be sent to Michael Rockler; 4036 Emerson Street; Skokie, IL 60076; U.S.A.

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(1)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Michael J. Rockler, President, The Bertrand Russell Society

As I write this, the temperature outdoors is 12 degrees and Chicagoland is covered with snow. In the depth of mid-winter it often seems like summer will never come. But of course it will. It will soon be June and time for another Bertrand Russell Society Conference--this one in San Diego, California from Friday, June 18 to Sunday, June 20, 1993.

San Diego is one of the nicest cities in the United States. The BRS meeting will be held on the beautiful campus of the University of California at San Diego. Housing will be in apartment-style buildings similar to the facilities we used at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania. I understand the campus is walking distance from the ocean.

Please join us for this year's annual meeting which will be special in many ways. The BRS Award will be given to Harry Ruja who has made significant contributions to the development of the Bertrand Russell Society. He is also a renowned Russell scholar whose work has added much to contemporary understanding of Bertrand Russell's work. Harry will deliver the banquet address entitled "Bertrand Russell's Life in Pictures." Please come to the annual conference and honor this important scholar and contributor to the Bertrand Russell Society.

On Friday evening Congressman Neil Abercrombie will offer reflections on the 1992 election. By that time President Clinton will have had several months in office; Congressman Abercrombie's perspective will provide insights on current developments in politics as they affect the kind of goals identified with Russell.

Other highlights of the meeting will include a reader's theater on Russell's autobiography presented by Professor Ernest Walberg and a workshop on one of Russell's essays conducted by Don Jackanicz. Timothy J. Madigan, Executive Editor of Free Inquiry will also speak on "The Will to Believe vs. the Will to Doubt." And of course there will be a Red Hackle Hour at a nearby restaurant.

The annual meeting is always a wonderful experience for those who attend. Won't you please join us in San Diego to honor the work and memory of one of the greatest intellects of the twentieth century?

Sadly, one regular participant in our annual conferences will not be present. Jack Cowles, a longtime member, has passed away in tragic circumstances. He was a loyal member of the Society and an active member of the Board of Directors. I looked forward to his presence at each meeting. I will miss him.

(2) BRS BUSINESS: DUES AND THE ANNUAL MEETING

1. 1993 Membership Dues. Thanks to all members who renewed their membership before the beginning of 1993. Your promptness is much appreciated and has aided our bookkeeping work. Again, thanks to each of you, especially those who thoughtfully included a donation with their dues! Members who have not yet renewed for 1993--and persons interested in joining the BRS for the first time--are asked to refer to the accompanying blue membership coupon. We very much want to have YOU/keep YOU as a member!

2. 1993 Annual Meeting: San Diego, California. The BRS's 1993 Annual Meeting will be held from Friday, June 18 through Sunday, June 20 on the campus of the University of California at San Diego. The May 1993 Russell Society News will provide final program details and additional information, but we can now summarize the tentative program as follows:

Partial List of Paper Presentations/Talks:

- U.S. Congressman Neil Abercrombie, "Reflections on the 1992 Presidential Election".
- Timothy J. Madigan, "The Will to Believe vs. the Will to Doubt".
- John Shosky, "Russell and the Contemplation of Philosophy".
- Ernest Walberg, "Russell's Autobiography--A Reader's Theater".
- Dennis J. Darland, "What is Mathematics About?".
- Harry Ruja, "Bertrand Russell's Life in Pictures".
- Marvin Kohl and Michael J. Rockler, "Russell vs. Russell on Education".
- Gonzalo Garcia, "Did Bertrand Russell Think of Himself as a Pacifist?".

Other Events:

- Workshop on BR's essay "A Philosophy for Our Time" (in Portraits from Memory and Other Essays), conducted by Don Jackanicz.
- Presentation of the BRS Award to Harry Ruja.
- Presentation of the BRS Service Award to Marvin Kohl.
- Presentation of the BRS Book Award to an author/title to be announced.
- Red Hackle Hour reception followed by a Banquet.

The University of California at San Diego, actually located in the suburban community of La Jolla, will provide a beautiful, stimulating environment for the meeting. San Diego, sixth largest U.S. city, has much to offer visitors. For area information, contact the San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau; 1200 3rd Avenue; San Diego, CA 92101-4190; telephone 619-232-3101.

A per person fee of \$160 for double occupancy or \$180 for single occupancy includes everything--registration; University apartment-style housing for two nights; and meals including Friday supper through Sunday breakfast, the Red Hackle Hour, the Banquet, and coffee breaks. Without housing, the per person fee is \$92.50.

Early pre-registration will be greatly appreciated. Please use the accompanying blue form. We look forward to hearing from you soon with your pre-registration, and we look forward to seeing you in San Diego!

(3)

DEATH OF JACK COWLES

We are saddened to inform BRS members of the death of Jack Cowles, who was murdered in his Virginia home near Washington, DC on December 18 or 19, 1992. Workmen arriving at his home on December 21 discovered his body, which had been stabbed. Jack was a retired U.S. Navy officer. His cremated body was to be buried at sea. Survivors include a brother, a sister, and his friend Evelyn Burton of New York City, who accompanied Jack to several BRS annual meetings, including our June 1992 Washington meeting. Jack also maintained a residence in New York City.

Jack was a longtime BRS Director and attended almost every annual meeting. His thoughtful contributions during Board of Directors discussions added much to resolving the matters at hand. He was particularly proud to have been one of the few BRS members to have had Russell as a teacher. Jack's experience with Russell in the classroom took place at the University of California at Los Angeles during Russell's 1939-1940 professorship year.

In addition to his participation in BRS affairs, Jack was involved with other organizations including the Secular Humanist Society of New York and the Institute for Rational Emotive Therapy.

Letters of sympathy to Evelyn Burton may be addressed to her in care of Russell Society News; 3802 North Kenneth Avenue; Chicago, IL 60641; U.S.A.

(4)

BRAND BLANSHARD ON NIGHTMARES OF EMINENT PERSONS

Warren Allen Smith has told us about this encounter with philosopher Brand Blanshard:

When book review editor of The Humanist in the 1950s, I asked Brand Blanshard to review Bertrand Russell's novel, Nightmares of Eminent Persons.

The famed Yale University aestheticist wrote that "all his characters, when they open their mouths, speak the language of that eminent philosopher, Lord Russell. A passionate young lover says to his love, 'I begin to think that perhaps we have lived, hitherto, with somewhat too limited preoccupations.' Such talk creaks. And Russell is always using his characters to score points. But then after all, what does one want of a philosopher? The points are generally sound ones, wittily put; and at times they go to the heart of the matter."

To learn more about Blanshard, we suggest examining The Philosophy of Brand Blanshard in Paul Arthur Schilpp's The Library of Living Philosophers series.

(5)

BRS DOCTORAL GRANT REPORT

The BRS is pleased to announce the awarding of its 1992 Doctoral Grant to Peter Denton, a doctoral candidate at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. The award is a cash prize of U.S. \$1,000. Mr. Denton's dissertation is titled "The 'Old Savage' and the Scientific Outlook: Religion, Science and Social Ethics in the Writings of Bertrand Russell, 1919-1938." We would like to extend our congratulations to Mr. Denton and our best wishes to him as he progresses in his research.

We are also pleased to announce that Claudio de Almeida, recipient of the 1991 Doctoral Grant, has presented a copy of his dissertation, "Russell on Meaning and Denotation: The Argument of 'On Denoting,'" to the BRS Library. Mr. de Almeida's dissertation can be borrowed from the Library (Box 434; Wilder, VT 05088; U.S.A.).

Effective in 1993, the grant program has been replaced by the BRS's "Prizes for Papers" competition. Refer to RSN, No. 76, November 1992, Section 2, page 2 for details. Additional information on "Prizes for Papers" is available from BRS Vice President John Lenz (Department of Modern and Classical Languages; Texas A & M University; College Station, TX 77843, U.S.A.).

As the doctoral/masters grant program has come to an end, we would like to acknowledge the work done over many years by Prof. Hugh Moorhead of Northeastern Illinois University, who coordinated much of the work of the program committee. Hugh's commitment of time and work was responsible in large part for the grant program's effectiveness in past years. Again, our thanks to him.

(6)

RUSSELL ON MALCOLM X

In light of the publicity connected with the recent film Malcolm X, Harry Ruja has brought the following Russell quotation to our attention. It comes from The Militant, vol. 29, no. 9, March 1, 1965, p. 4.

A society in which people are shot down at will is a society which will plunge the world into disaster. Malcolm X was reviled in the U.S. and Britain, by the established press, not because of his advocacy of armed defense for the Negro against attack but because he showed that the same standards which promoted cruel and unrelenting wars of atrocity in Vietnam, the Congo and other parts of the world, were responsible for the suffering of the Negro in the U.S.... The violence of Harlem is America's violence and it is to be feared that American violence will become the violence of the world.

(7)

BRS LIBRARY

The BRS Library sells and lends materials relating to Russell. Please send your check or money order (U.S. funds) payable to "Bertrand Russell Society" to Tom Stanley, Russell Society Library, Box 434, Wilder, VT 05088, U.S.A.

1. Books For Sale. 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.

By Bertrand Russell:

<u>Appeal to the American Conscience</u>	\$3.15
<u>Authority and the Individual</u>	7.95
<u>Has Man a Future?</u>H..	8.00
<u>A History of Western Philosophy</u>R..	6.50
<u>History of the World in Epitome</u>	1.00
<u>In Praise of Idleness</u>	7.95
<u>My Philosophical Development</u>	7.95
<u>Political Ideals</u>	7.95
<u>Power: A New Social Analysis</u>	5.50
<u>Principles of Social Reconstruction</u>	7.95
<u>Roads to Freedom</u>	6.50

By Other Authors:

<u>Bertrand Russell, 1872-1970</u>	\$1.50
<u>Bertrand Russell as a Philosopher</u> by A.J. Ayer.....	2.25
<u>Bertrand Russell's Theory of Knowledge</u> by Elizabeth Eames.....H..	8.50
<u>Essays on Socialist Humanism in Honor of the Centenary of BR</u>H..	9.00
<u>Liberty and Social Transformation: A Study in Bertrand Russell's</u> <u>Political Thought</u> by Chandrakala Padia.....H..	11.50
<u>Into the Tenth Decade: A Tribute to Bertrand Russell</u>	5.00
<u>The Life of Bertrand Russell in Pictures and His Own Words</u>	6.75
<u>Mr. Wilson Speaks 'Frankly and Fearlessly' on Vietnam to BR</u>	2.00
<u>Russell</u> by A.J. Ayer.....H..	8.00

2. Videocassettes. The loan fee is \$4.00 per tape.

- 260 Donahue Interviews Gore Vidal.
 261 "The 'People For' Story." People for the American Way.
 262 "Humanism: Making Bigger Circles." American Humanist Association.
 263 "The Life and Times of Bertrand Russell." Produced by the BBC as part of Russell's 90th birthday celebration.
 264 "Bertrand Russell." BR interviewed by Romney Wheeler.
 265 "Bertrand Russell Speaks His Mind." Woodrow Wyatt interview. Part 1.
 266 "Bertrand Russell Speaks His Mind." Woodrow Wyatt interview. Part 2.
 267 "Bertrand Russell Speaks His Mind." Woodrow Wyatt interview. Part 3.
 268 "Bertie and the Bomb." Documentary on BR's last years and his CND work.
 269 "Bertrand Russell." Giovanni Costigan's introductory lecture on BR.
 270 "Close-Up." CBC interview of BR by Elaine Grand.

3. New Audio Cassette. 239 "The Attack of Academic Freedom in Britain and America." Univ. of Chicago Roundtable, June 22, 1952. 30 min. BR and others.

(8)

THE COLLECTED PAPERS: VOLUME 6

Now joining Volumes 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 12, and 13 of The Collected Papers of Bertrand Russell is Volume 6, Logical and Philosophical Papers. The list price is £100.00. Here are excerpts from Routledge's (the publisher's) publicity brochure about The Collected Papers and Volume 6 in particular.

Logical and Philosophical Papers Volume 6

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



THE COLLECTED PAPERS OF BERTRAND RUSSELL

The years covered by this volume of the *Collected Papers of Bertrand Russell* were among the most productive, philosophically speaking, of Russell's entire career. In addition to the papers reprinted here, he brought *Principia Mathematica* to its finished form and wrote *The Problems of Philosophy*, *Theory of Knowledge and Knowledge of the External World*. In October 1910, he began teaching at Cambridge, having accepted an appointment as lecturer in logic and the principles of mathematics at Trinity College for a term of five years. A year later Ludwig Wittgenstein began to attend his lectures. Within a few months he was influencing Russell's philosophical thinking as much as, or more than, Russell was influencing his.

Price	£100.00
Extent	682 pp
Publication	October 1992
ISBN	0-415-08446-6

ROUTLEDGE



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LOGIC AND THE PHILOSOPHY OF MATHEMATICS

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- 5 Reply to Koyré [1912]
- 6 Review of Reymond [1909]
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- 9 A Medical Logician [1912]

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- 15 Knowledge by Acquaintance and Knowledge by Description [1911]
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- II Preface to *Philosophical Essays* [1910]
- III E.H. Bradley's Criticism of Russell and His Reply to Russell [1910-11]
- IV Sur les axiomes de l'infini et du transfini [1911]
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By any standards Bertrand Russell was a prolific writer. He was the author of seventy books in addition to over 2,500 shorter public writings including scholarly papers, essays, magazine and newspaper articles, prefaces, introductions, forewords, pamphlets, leaflets, book reviews, political messages, letters and personal journals.

McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada purchased the Bertrand Russell archives and appointed a highly qualified editorial board to edit the papers with financial assistance from the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

The editorial aim of *The Collected Papers of Bertrand Russell* is a complete, reliable, critical edition which recognises the division between the technical writings on philosophy and logic and the other non-technical writings, and yet also succeeds in placing the material in approximate chronological order, so that the development of Russell's thought can be followed and the many interconnections between his popular and technical writings identified.

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"The entire series of volumes, when complete, will be indispensable to a thorough study of the intellectual development of one whose influence on the philosophy of his and our time has perhaps been greater than that of any other single individual."

P F Strawson

The Times Literary Supplement

(9) RUSSELL, MCCABE, AND THE LITTLE BLUE BOOKS

BRS President Michael Rockler has received the following letter from Wanda Kuhn. If you would like to contact Ms. Kuhn, write to her at P.O. Box 67; Phillipsville, CA 95559; U.S.A.

Friday, 1/29/93

Dear members of the Bertrand Russell Society:

Do any of you know of the books & pamphlets of Joseph McCabe (1868-1953), one of the greatest British atheist writers & controversialists who ever lived? Even better in this line than Bertrand Russell, I think. An incredibly learned Franciscan monk, in his twenties McCabe was struck by a Saul-on-the-road-to-Damascus sudden conversion, but in reverse: one morning in the 1890s he awoke in his monastic cell to find himself an atheist. Really, like Paul before him, the culmination of years of "fear and trembling." McCabe wrote hundreds of books & articles over a 60 year writing career. He penned the first critical study of Bernard Shaw in England, I think, and his clashes with G.K. Chesterton on the platform and in the press were legendary. The older he grew, the lefter his politics: McCabe ended his days ranting for Stalin. I'd guess that after about 1920 few of his books were published in the U.S.A. due to their increasing vitriol.

Nevertheless, in the 1920s and 1930s millions of Americans had at least the opportunity to read McCabe's stuff, in the form of E. Haldeman-Julius' Little Blue Books. Perhaps some of the older B.R. Society members recall these. For those who don't: published in remotest Kansas and sold by mail order, these tiny blue (grey, really) pamphlets sold for a nickel, and the thousands of titles ran the gamut from reprints of literary classics jazzed up with sexy new titles, to manuals of farm implements. The motto ran, "A University in Print," and, for all the hype & the cheap printing & the low prestige, the claim was true. Haldeman-Julius had a Socialist background and published as much leftwing & freethinking propaganda as the traffic would bear, including lots of Bertrand Russell. You could call him a village atheist who made money.

Over 30 years E. H.-J. published dozens of Joseph McCabe's works. A few [titles] of my Little (and Big) Blue Books collection are by the trenchant ex-Franciscan, but these mostly date from later, the 1940s. By then McCabe had pretty much acquiesced in Stalinism, and the wit & the fearless independence that marked his earlier writing seems to have dried up, at least on the subject of the Soviet Union. It's really the earlier stuff, from the Twenties & Thirties, that I'm writing to you about. I had quite a bit of his earlier stuff as printed by E. Haldeman-Julius, but it has all disappeared over the years. I remember a series on The History of the Papacy published around 1931, which ransacks the great 19th Century historians to prove that, from its inception, the Catholic Church

has been one long tale of blood, corruption and bigotry. Six volumes, I think it ran, each roughly the size of a modern Reader's Digest (what a comparison), printed on the usual cheap newsprint and stapled in...good typography on this one, though, befitting a great theme. This series deserves to be republished right now, with the full panoply of critical exegesis, by some university press, Catholic, perhaps? First, a set must be found to copy. Even 30 years ago when I owned these volumes, the pages were yellow & brittle. Or is it brittle & yellowing? Hard to believe any original copies of Papacy survive today.

There may be hope, however, for the lost McCabe works, like his history of the Popes. But I need your advice & encouragement, Society members. In 1968, I interviewed the son of E. Haldeman-Julius in the ruins, practically, of the old Little Blue Books printing plant on the edge of Girard, a quiet Kansas village. When I asked him about the older out-of-print L.B.B.s, and about the special publications, he smiled sadly and said that all the (printing) plates had been donated to the University of Indiana. The Kinsey Reports. Remember that? University of Indiana. Does anyone know how to approach these academic mandarins to determine the status of the Haldeman-Julius plates? The lost Haldeman-Julius plates? Sounds like the gimmick of a murder mystery starring some beloved, cranky, bookish academic/amateur sleuth. I may write it myself if my efforts to promote Joseph McCabe come to nothing...Bertrand Russell devoured mystery novels like a drug, you know.

Wouldn't it be grand if the Bloomington archivists could be persuaded to reprint Joseph McCabe's History of the Papacy, or allow others to do so. Bertrand Russell Society...please pray about this!

(10)

NEW BOOK FROM THE BRS PHILIPPINE CHAPTER

Poch Suzara of the BRS Philippine Chapter has sent us a copy of The Freethinker's Reader, a 188 page book reprinting writings about religion by Russell, Robert Green Ingersoll, Carlos Esteban, and H.L. Mencken. The four Russell items are "Bertrand Russell's Ten Commandments" (identified elsewhere as "A Liberal Decalogue"); "Why I Am Not a Christian" (1927); "Has Religion Made Useful Contributions to Civilization" (1930); and "Can Religion Cure Our Troubles?" (1954).

In addition to editing this anthology, Poch wrote an introduction, which relates the religious outlook--particularly that of the Christian variety--to the Philippine situation. He concludes his introduction by noting, "Religious values are true values if they promote a better society for all of its members adding, not subtracting, to its own welfare."

To receive a copy of this book, we suggest writing to Poch (BRS Philippine Chapter; 8 Zipper Street SLV; Makati, M.M.; Philippines) with a contribution for the BRS Philippine Chapter to cover printing and mailing costs.

(11) BR'S NOBEL PRIZE SPEECH: CORRECTING THE RECORD

In his capacity as BRS Vice President/Information, Lee Eisler recently exchanged letters with Bruce R. Carsick, Vice President of The H.W. Wilson Company, publisher of numerous well known reference works. Our thanks to Lee for trying to set the record straight in Nobel Prize Winners.

The H. W. Wilson Company
950 University Avenue
Bronx, NY 10452

12/21/92

Dear Sirs:

The article on Bertrand Russell in your *Nobel Prize Winners* (1987) tells, about Russell's receiving the 1950 Nobel Prize for Literature.

The last sentence in the paragraph on the Nobel Prize -- on page 897, near the bottom of the left column -- says this:

Russell did not deliver a formal lecture.

That sentence tells what Russell did not do; it could have -- and should have -- said what Russell actually did do. Here is what happened at the Nobel ceremony:

First came the Nobel Prize presentation speech, given by a representative of the Nobel selection committee. Then came Russell's response -- his acceptance speech. He called it *Politically Important Desires*.

I don't know whether it qualifies as a "formal lecture", but I am not sure that it deserves to be overlooked. Russell clearly attached importance to it. He thought it good enough to include as a chapter in his 1954 book *Human Society in Ethics and Politics*.

I suggest that the next edition of *Nobel Prize Winners* give a more accurate, a more inclusive, picture of what happened on the occasion when Russell was awarded a Nobel Prize.

Sincerely,

Lee Eisler
VP/Information



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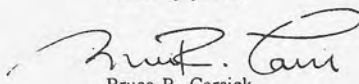
December 28, 1992

Dear Mr. Eisler:

Thank you very much for your letter of December 21, 1992, concerning the article on Bertrand Russell in Nobel Prize Winners.

No doubt we should have a look at Russell's acceptance speech. By any chance, do you have a copy? If we mischaracterized his response, we would certainly change it for the next printing.

Sincerely yours,


Bruce R. Carsick
Vice President

(12)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Dennis J. Darland submitted these reports respectively for the quarter ending December 31, 1992 and for the year ending December 31, 1992.

Beginning Balance, October 1, 1992.....\$5,241.64

Income

Contributions.....290.50
 Interest.....11.14
 Meeting Fees.....700.00
 Miscellaneous.....7.75
 New Members.....383.50
 Renewals.....2,772.00
 Total Income.....+4,164.89

Expenses

Library.....70.00
 Membership and Information Committee.....3,246.71
 Miscellaneous.....62.59
 Russell Subscriptions.....252.00
 Scholarship.....1,000.00
 Total Expenses.....-4,631.30

Final Balance, December 31, 1992.....\$4,775.23

** ** ** ** **

Beginning Balance, January 1, 1992.....\$2,991.34

Income

Contributions.....2,423.50
 Interest.....50.81
 Library.....239.25
 Meeting Fees.....1,041.45
 Miscellaneous.....31.75
 New Members.....1,272.00
 Renewals.....8,677.51
 Total Income.....+13,736.27

Expenses

Library.....308.76
 Membership and Information Committee.....7,580.85
 Miscellaneous.....154.77
 Russell Subscriptions.....2,908.00
 Scholarship.....1,000.00
 Total Expenses.....-11,952.38

Final Balance, December 31, 1992..... \$4,775.23

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ATTENTION BR BOOK COLLECTORS

Thoemmes Antiquarian Books Ltd. (85 Park Street; Bristol BS1 5PJ; England) has issued a 40 page catalog, compiled by Herb Tandree, of books and other materials by and about Russell that it offers for sale. Below are reduced-size copies of the cover and a representative page. According to the catalog, "Thoemmes has emphasized the selling of books by and about Bertrand Russell for a number of years. This bulletin represents a means of making available a very wide range of Russell's works in their different editions, as well as a good selection of critical works, and ending with a section of related books. This wide range is reflected in the prices from collector's items to paperbacks...."

Bulletin 37

BETRAND RUSSELL BULLETIN

Books and Pamphlets by Russell
Critical Works on Russell



THOEMMES ANTIQUARIAN BOOKS LTD

11. **THE PHILOSOPHY OF LEIBNIZ.** 1992.
With a new introduction by John Slater.
London: Routledge. 352 pp., paperback, new,
THIRD EDITION. £12.99

12. **LA PHILOSOPHIE DE LEIBNIZ, EXPOSÉ CRITIQUE.** 1908.
Traduit par Jean Ray & Renée J. Ray. Avec une Préface de l'Auteur et
un Avant-Propos par L. Lévy-Bruhl. Paris: Félix Alcan. xvi + 233 pp.
Recent green sugarpaper boards.
FIRST FRENCH EDITION. £120.00

Martin 019.09; Slater CRL/Fr:908Fr:1908.c1.

13. **LA PHILOSOPHIE DE LEIBNIZ, EXPOSÉ CRITIQUE.** 1908.
Traduit par Jean Ray & Renée J. Ray. Avec une Préface de l'Auteur et
un Avant-Propos par L. Lévy-Bruhl. Paris: Félix Alcan. xvi + 233 pp.
Recent green marbled wrappers, original front cover bound in.
FIRST FRENCH EDITION. £120.00

R.B. Braithwaite's copy.

Martin 019.09; Slater CRL/Fr:908Fr:1908.c1.

14. **THE PRINCIPLES OF MATHEMATICS.** 1903.
Volume I [All published]. Cambridge: University Press. xxix + 534 pp.
Original dark-blue cloth, rough trimmed, very skillfully rebacked. Very Rare
FIRST EDITION. £750.00

"The present work has two main objects. One of these, the proof that all pure mathematics deals exclusively with concepts definable in terms of a very small number of fundamental logical concepts, and that all its propositions are deducible from a very small number of fundamental logical principles... The demonstration of this thesis has, if I am not mistaken, all the certainty and precision of which mathematical demonstrations are capable. As the thesis is very recent among mathematicians, and is almost universally denied by philosophers, I have undertaken, in this volume, to defend its various parts, as occasion arose, against such adverse theories as appeared most widely held or most difficult to disprove... The other object of this work, which occupies Part I, is the explanation of the fundamental concepts which mathematics accepts as indefinable. This is a purely philosophical task, and I cannot flatter myself that I have done more than indicate a vast field of inquiry..." (Preface p. v).
Upon finishing the book, and sadly leaving certain questions of paradox unsolved, "Russell was not willing to let these destroy his central argument and he spent the rest of the year, and the spring and early summer of 1902, in putting the finishing touches. As far as the contradiction was concerned, he had worked out what he himself well knew was only a crude solution. He put it in an appendix, apologized for its inadequacy, insisted that in due course he would be able to do better, and on 23 May 1902 handed over the manuscript to the publishers.

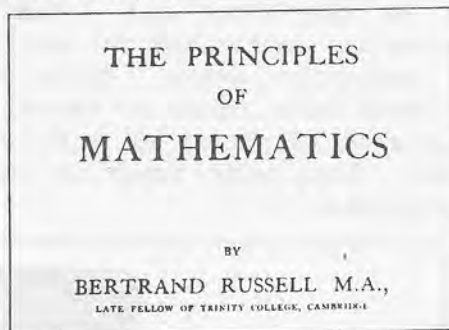
Then, and only then, did there take place an event which gives the story of mathematics one of its moments of high drama. Russell had read Frege's *Begriffsschrift* in the 1890s but had failed to follow it. Late in 1900 he had bought the first volume of the same author's *Grundgesetze der Arithmetik*, in which Frege had applied his symbolic logic to arithmetic and begun to work out an analysis of arithmetic based entirely on logical operations. Now, reading the book in the quiet of his study at Millhanger, Russell realized that Frege had used, as a cornerstone to his whole philosophy of mathematics, the method of constructing classes which Russell had proved led directly to the paradox.

On 16 June, Russell wrote to Frege. He expressed his appreciation of the *Begriffsschrift*. But, he went on, he had only recently studied the first volume of the *Grundgesetze der Arithmetik*. He agreed with most of it. But, he continued, "There is just one point where I have encountered a difficulty. You state that a function, too, can act as the indeterminate element..." (and so forth).

Frege replied by return. "Your discovery of the contradiction caused me the greatest surprise and, I would almost say, consternation, since it has

shaken the basis on which I intended to build arithmetic," he wrote. "...It is all the more serious since, with the loss of my Rule V, not only the foundations of arithmetic, but also the sole possible foundations of arithmetic, seem to vanish."
Sixty years later, Russell was still impressed by Frege's noble reply. "As I think about acts of integrity and grace, I realise that there is nothing in my knowledge to compare with Frege's dedication to truth..." (Clark pp. 80-810).

Martin 037.01; Slater PSM/A503A:1903.c1.



15. **THE PRINCIPLES OF MATHEMATICS.** 1950.
London: George Allen & Unwin. xxix + 534 pp. Original blue
publisher's cloth in blue dust-jacket.
SECOND EDITION, Fifth Impression. £40.00

Martin 037.08; not in Slater.

16. **THE PRINCIPLES OF MATHEMATICS.** [1964].
New York: W.W. Norton. xxix + 534 pp. + [1]. Original cream, grey and
orange wrappers.
First Paperback edition thus. £16.00

Martin 037.14; Slater PSM/A:964B:1964.c1.

17. **PRINCIPLES OF MATHEMATICS.** 1992.
With a new introduction by John Slater.
London: Routledge. 592 pp., paperback, new,
THIRD EDITION. £14.99

18. **PHILOSOPHICAL ESSAYS.** 1910.
London: Longmans, Green, & Co. vi + contents leaf + 185 pp. Original
red cloth, rough trimmed.
FIRST EDITION. £200.00

These essays are a selection of Russell's early philosophical articles (1897-1909). Most were reprints, and the article entitled "On the Nature of Truth and Falsehood" was written especially for this volume. The subjects are either on ethics or the nature of truth, the first primarily due to his friendship with G.E. Moore, and the latter partly stemming from his study of William James' philosophy of pragmatism. In a postscript added to the proofs Russell says: "The death of William James, which occurred when the printing of this book was already far advanced, makes me wish to express, what in the course of controversial writings does not adequately appear, the profound respect and personal esteem which I felt for him, as did all who knew him, and my deep sense of the public and private loss occasioned by his death..." (Preface p. vi). This was a polite way of saying he disagreed with James.

(14)

CORRECTION OF RSN, NO. 76

RSN, No. 76 (November 1992), Section 21, page 20 incorrectly stated that Nicholas Griffin was the recipient of the 1992 BRS Book Award for The Selected Letters of Bertrand Russell. That section should have read that Dr. Griffin was recognized with the 1992 BRS Book Award for his book Russell's Idealist Apprenticeship.

(15)

"CONTROVERSY AT 90"

Harry Ruja has located yet another noteworthy BR newspaper clipping. This one comes from the Toronto Daily Star, May 19, 1962, pp. 25, 31.

Russell: Controversy At 90

By RALPH THOMAS

Bertrand Russell, often called "Britain's greatest citizen after Winston Churchill," was 90 years old yesterday. He is considered by some to be the greatest living philosopher and the most important logician since Aristotle, but he is most widely known as a mathematician, moral iconoclast, progressive educator, political passivist, and at the moment as a fighter for nuclear disarmament.

He was jailed during World War I for his passivism and a subject of scandal for his theories of education and morality between the wars. Just two months ago he was again jailed for acts of civil disobedience as a member of the militant Committee of the 100, an off-shoot of the more sedate Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

*One of the greatest men
of our age, he's a symbol of
intelligence and moral courage.*

(Continued from Page 25)

"His influence is greater in the realm of social mores and especially education. His book "On Education" is especially important in encouraging schools to allow students great freedom, as opposed to the restrictive methods of the past."

Professor Fulton H. Anderson, head of the university's philosophy department:

"Russell's great exuberance of imagination and facility for construction has led him to producing "philosophical pot-boilers,"

since his earlier more rigorous and systematic works on Leibniz and mathematics."

Professor Marcus Long:

"One of the great men of the age, but by no means one of its outstanding philosophers. He isn't a system builder, but a man who challenged men to think. His work in mathematics and logics will of course last and guarantee him at least a footnote in the history of thought."

"The man today is a symbol of the tragedy of our times, a time when the intellect should be used

His most important philosophic work was before World War I in the field of mathematical logics, culminating in the publication (1910-13) of the three-volume "Principia Mathematica" written in collaboration with philosopher Alfred North Whitehead.

Following the war he changed direction and launched a torrent of popular writings which won him a much wider readership. Such books as "The Conquest of Happiness," "Marriage and Morals," and "Education and the Social Order," earned him the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1950.

This week The Star canvassed teachers of philosophy at the University of Toronto for their estimation of Earl Russell, whose life has spanned two world wars and an enormous development in science and thought. Their comments follow.

Professor David Savan, whose field is symbolic logic and mathematics:

"No other modern logician has exerted a greater direct influence on contemporary thought. At the turn of the century he made a series of contributions to logic and logical philosophy of the greatest importance, both clarifying the work of his predecessors in the field of mathematical logic and making some important discoveries himself."

"Russell is in the very first rank of the great logicians of all history."

Professor Thomas A. Goudge, this year's winner of the Governor General's Award for non-fiction:

"His work is among the most important done in England in the 20th century, but not necessarily in the field of philosophy. He isn't one who encourages a school of thought, because he has frequently changed his fundamental ideas."

(Continued on Page 31)

for the glorification of man, but instead is used for its destruction."

To Rabbi Abraham Felberg, head of the Toronto Committee for Survival, the third Earl Russell is a symbol of intellectual and moral courage, particularly to the young people throughout the world.

"He is a great scientific thinker, but in the age where science is exploited for military purposes, he uses his mind to disrupt the building of the bomb. He is dedicated to the peace race."

(16) ON YOUSUF KARSH

Yousuf Karsh is one of the most eminent living photographers. A recently published book, Karsh: The Art of the Portrait (Ottawa: National Gallery of Canada, 1989), provides this information on its dustjacket:

Karsh was born in Armenia in 1908, and, after a difficult childhood, emigrated to Canada in 1924 at the age of sixteen. Now eighty, he is still an active photographer, and the recipient of numerous international honours and awards. In 1989, the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of photography, Yousuf Karsh has made a generous gift of almost one hundred of his best-known photographs to the National Gallery of Canada. Approximately half of this gift, along with works from the collections of the artist, the Gallery, and the National Archives of Canada, comprise "Karsh: The Art of the Portrait," the largest retrospective exhibition ever mounted of Karsh's oeuvre, presented and circulated by the National Gallery of Canada.

In September 1992, Don Jackanicz visited the Montreal Musuem of Fine Arts and toured this Karsh exhibit. Among the numerous portrait photographs was a fine one of Russell. A different Russell photograph appears on page 11 of the Karsh book. It is identified in the book as "'Bertrand Russell,' 13 July 1949, gelatin silver, printed later, 33.6 x 40.8 cm, National Archives of Canada, PA-165827."

Don subsequently visited the National Archives of Canada in Ottawa on whose lobby exhibit walls was a Karsh portrait photography display titled "Great Humanitarians." Besides Russell, those portrayed included Albert Schweitzer, Albert Einstein, and Martin Luther King.

Copyright restrictions prevent us from reproducing these Russell photographs. But they, and the innumerable other Karsh photographs, are indeed fine works of art as well as important twentieth century documentary images.

(17) BR CENSORSHIP IN SOUTH KOREA

A recently published one volume reference work, The Encyclopedia of Censorship, Jonathan Green, editor (New York: Facts on File, 1990) includes this brief BR reference in its article titled "South Korea" (p. 294):

Seven-hundred political prisoners were still detained under the law in late 1987 and the police regularly seized "communist" materials (including Bertrand Russell's History of Western Philosophy from Seoul bookshops.

The Encyclopedia is well worth examining for its coverage of historical and contemporary issues relating to censorship in particular media and countries.

(18) PAPERBACK EDITION OF HYLTON BOOK

Oxford University Press's 1992-1993 philosophy catalog includes this notice of the availability of Peter Hylton's Russell, Idealism, and the Emergence of Analytic Philosophy in a new paperback edition, as well as in the original cloth edition. We are pleased to see the notice mentioned that Dr. Hylton was the recipient of the 1991 BRS Book Award for this work.

Forthcoming in paper!

*Winner of the 1991 Bertrand
Russell Society Book Award*

**Russell, Idealism, and the Emergence
of Analytic Philosophy**

PETER HYLTON, *University of California, Santa
Barbara*

"Here, at last, is a philosophically sophisticated, historically sensitive, and richly detailed account of the events that led to the overthrow of the sort of idealism that prevailed at Oxford and Cambridge at the turn of the century and its replacement by so-called analytic philosophy.... A splendid book. A most welcome achievement and a must for any academic library."—*Choice*.

Analytic philosophy has become the dominant philosophical tradition in the English-speaking world. This book illuminates that tradition through a historical examination of a crucial period in its formation: the rejection of Idealism by Bertrand Russell and G.E. Moore at the beginning of the twentieth century, and the subsequent development of Russell's thought in the period before the First World War.

1990 (paper January 1993) 440 pp.

23. 824018-X paper \$22.00/\$17.60

24. 824626-9 cloth \$69.00/\$55.20

(19) RUSSELL ON GROWING OLDER

Wayne Booth, University of Chicago Professor of English Emeritus, has edited a 349 pp. anthology titled The Art of Growing Older: Writers on Living and Aging (New York: Poseidon Press, 1992). The thoughts of 96 writers are sampled. Among them are Sophocles, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Pauline Kael, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Andre Gide, B.F. Skinner, Geoffrey Chaucer, and Russell. The Russell selection is taken from the Postscript of The Autobiography of Bertrand Russell, volume 3.

(20)

A RUSSELL-MILOSEVIC REFERENCE

Tim Madigan has sent us James Walsh's January 4, 1993 Time article, "Man of the Year: The World's Other Newsmakers," which has a subsection titled "The Butcher of the Balkans: Slobodan Milosevic is the High Priest of 'Ethnic Cleansing.'" Woods includes this reference to Russell on page 46:

In one of his typically nonconformist essays, Bertrand Russell once dissected the fallacy of regarding oppressed peoples as morally superior. The fact that they are tyrannized, the British philosopher observed, does not mean that they will perform wonders of nobility and high-mindedness once given their freedom. On the contrary: as unfolding events are proving, communism, even Tito's diluted version, enforced a denial of base instincts that have now burst out all over Central and Eastern Europe.

(21)

HARRY RUJA WRITES TO NEWSWEEK, FLORA LEWIS, and RSN

The October 26, 1992 issue of Newsweek featured Tom Morganthau's pp. 36-39 article, "At the Brink of Disaster: Thirty Years after the Cuban Missile Crisis, Newly Released CIA Documents and Transcripts Show Just How Close We Came to Nuclear War." In response Harry Ruja wrote the following letter to the editor of Newsweek:

Of Khrushchev you say, "he was prepared to risk a shooting war as late as Oct. 27". Of Kennedy, in contrast, you say he "fended off pressure to use military force." You neglect, however, to provide many clues as to why Khrushchev eventually backed down.

Part of the answer lies in a cable Bertrand Russell, the English philosopher and peace activist, sent to Khrushchev on 23 October. Published both in Pravda and Izvestia on 25 October, it appealed to him to exercise restraint, declaring that "precipitous action could mean annihilation for mankind."

Khrushchev welcomed this opportunity to wear the mantle of world savior, assuring Russell in a lengthy reply that he would not make any "reckless decisions" but would, rather, do "everything" in his power to prevent the outbreak of war. Distributed by the Tass news agency, the letter received wide attention. Soon after that, negotiations began in earnest, and the crisis defused.

The force of Russell's appeal lay in giving Khrushchev a noble rationale for retreat. Without this face-saving stratagem, he might have tried to bluff it through, with possibly disastrous consequences.

Harry also sent this November 20, 1992 letter to Flora Lewis, European Desk Senior Editor of The New York Times:

It's 25 years later. One president was in effect impeached because he pursued the attack on Vietnam and gave up his hope for another term. We have just elected another president who used every legal stratagem he could think of to avoid joining the carnage. Thousands of friends and relatives of dead Americans have shed bitter tears before the memorial wall in Washington.

Has any of this led you to consider the piece you did for Look in April 1967 trashing Bertrand Russell for condemning the American aggression in Vietnam and for being old?

If so, perhaps you might be willing to write an "I Was Wrong" piece for the Times.

If you are inclined to respond to me directly, you might add an explanation of how that "bulky young Englishman" (in a Sunday Express reprint) could have "hissed" a sentence containing not a single "s", "c", or "z"; and perhaps also how a young reporter for the college newspaper could interview Russell in the fall of 1939 when he came to join the faculty that academic year in such an objective and friendly manner and then, with a distinguished career in journalism behind her, write such a jaundiced report on his anti-Vietnam-War campaign.

On other matters, Harry contacted RSN as follows:

The story about BR and Wittgenstein which you reprinted in RSN, No. 74 from The Atlantic Monthly for July 1991 has various versions. Here's the version from BR's article on Wittgenstein in Mind, July 1951:

[Wittgenstein] maintained that all existential propositions are meaningless. This was in a lecture room, and I invited him to consider the proposition, "There is no hippopotamus in this room at present." When he refused to believe this, I looked under all the desks without finding one; but he remained unconvinced.

I tried identifying the source of "The exercise of power..." from the Gazette [see RSN, No. 76, November 1992, Section 27, p. 26] but did not succeed within the time I allowed myself. I found something like it in Power, Chap. 1: "Every man would like to be God if it were possible; some find it difficult to admit the impossibility."

(22)

MICHAEL ROCKLER VISITS CHICAGO HUMANISTS

On January 24, 1993, BRS President Michael Rockler was guest speaker at the Sunday Platform Meeting of The Ethical Humanist Society of Chicago. His 45 minute talk, "Bertrand Russell: A Skeptical Humanist," was well received by those gathered, who included BRS members Ed Kellman and Don Jackanicz.

(23)

CAROLINE MOOREHEAD'S NEW RUSSELL BIOGRAPHY

Caroline Moorehead's *Bertrand Russell* is now available in a cloth British edition. An American edition, published by Viking, is scheduled for Autumn 1993 release. Rosemary Dinnage's October 2, 1992 *Times Literary Supplement* book review places this new biography and another about Ottoline Morrell in perspective.

Can philosophy, and philosophers' lives, ever be made completely intelligible to the ordinary reader? The outlines of Bertrand Russell's long life are already known from previous biographies and his own autobiography; but in the end, I suppose, it is philosophy he must be remembered for and not his once popular books on marriage, education and other social topics, nor his work for pacifism during the First World War and the nuclear age. The drama of an intellectual progression has rarely been so strikingly visible. Godfathered by John Stuart Mill, early orphaned of his free-thinking aristocratic parents, brought up by a morally strenuous grandmother; first lessons in geometry from his elder brother ("This was one of the great events of my life, as dazzling as first love"); intense religious doubts, and temporary conversion to Hegelianism ("I had gone out to buy a tin of tobacco . . . when suddenly I threw it up in the air and exclaimed: 'Great God in boots, the ontological argument is sound!'); rejection of idealism ("a great liberation, as if I had escaped from a hot-house on to a wind-swept headland") and then dedication to exploring the foundations of mathematics and logic. Ten years, with A. N. Whitehead, of writing a 4000-page book, published thanks to a scientific grant, and set by the only compositor at Cambridge able to deal with his symbols. The conviction that he had now shot his bolt intellectually: the fateful meeting in 1911 with Wittgenstein. As Russell wrote, Wittgenstein "began as my pupil and ended as my supplanter".

Caroline Moorehead's excellent biography relates all this quite successfully, though in less detail than Ronald Clark's biography of 1975. If it is possible to summarize Hegel in fifteen lines, she has done it. But it still remains hard for the untrained reader to understand how it was that the theory of classes threw up such a contradiction for Russell that his work was held up for nearly two years, or what he and Wittgenstein were at



Bertrand Russell at ninety-six

when they said they had spent the morning discussing whether there were two things in the world or three. It is important to know, at least, that it was his underlying need to know whether anything could be established as true that shaped his whole mind, and his sense of an unbridgeable gap between thought and feeling. He himself felt that his search had made him a "logic machine", a "spectator and not an actor", with a "mind like a search light, very bright in one direction but dark everywhere else". Those who met him were also struck by this. George Santayana saw in both Russell and his brother "a strange mixture . . . of great ability and great disability; prodigious capacity and brilliance here - astonishing unconsciousness and want of perception there"; Virginia Woolf that "this luminous vigorous mind seems to be attached to a flimsy little car, like that of a large glinting balloon". She would like, though, she added, "the run of his headpiece"; but might not have found it comfortable to inhabit.

The other strand in Russell's life is the story of

Loving ghosts

ROSEMARY DINNAGE

Caroline Moorehead
BERTRAND RUSSELL
596pp. Sinclair-Stevenson. £20.
185619180X

Miranda Seymour
OTTOLINE MORRELL
Life on the grand scale
452pp. Hodder and Stoughton. £25.
0340518200

his marriage and love-affairs. His early, idealistic marriage to Alys Pearsall-Smith ran into boredom before his first philosophical work was finished, and then into hatred and misery. From this marriage he plunged abruptly and totally at the age of thirty-six into his love-affair with Ottoline Morrell. In the enormous Russell archive at McMaster University in Canada - as Moorehead says, one of the most remarkable collections ever assembled around a single person - are over 2,000 letters to Lady Ottoline from Russell, covering not only the years of their affair but a lifelong friendship. In view of his later deceitfulness with his various women friends, his attachment to her seems almost pathetically intense and single-minded. Of the same age and background as himself, she did return his love, but not physically - his hands "were like the paws of a bear", she said, "no feeling in them" - and not enough to leave her husband and child. Once he had reached a dead end in his love-affair, and a dead end in his philosophical work, one feels Russell becoming somehow a harder, shallower and less likeable man - but he had years of puritanism to make up for. Beatrice Webb, always a surprisingly acute judge, remarked in her diary that compared to the earlier Russell, it was sad "to look on this rather frowsty, unhealthy and cynical personage".

But then she did not like Dora, Russell's second wife, whom Russell to some extent chose in order to have children. It is odd how scantily the question of fecundity and childbirth is treated in biography (was Lawrence's behaviour, for instance, affected by the fact that his wife had children by another man and not himself?). Russell had always wanted children, and chose a young and suitable second mate. The story of his marriage, told from her side in Dora Russell's autobiography, is something of a cruel joke played by an ironical God on two apostates of rationality, free love and birth-control - both authors of books on the art of being happy. When Russell grew sexually bored with Dora Russell, he told her, like a good rationalist, that he would bring up a child of hers by someone else if she wished. She had two by someone else. Russell retained by fathering a child on a young girl who became his third wife and, eventually, ex-wife. The hubris of separating intellect from feelings such as rivalry, hurt, jealousy, pride and retaliation can seldom have been so clearly demonstrated. Beatrice Webb again, many years earlier, had commented that "compromise, mitigation, mixed motive, phases of health of body and mind, qualified statements, uncertain feelings, all seem unknown to him", and that this frightened her for the future of those who loved him.

Towards the latter third of Moorehead's *Bertrand Russell* and in his long old age, the life becomes gradually more that of the political than the emotional man. He was deeply aware of encroaching Nazi and Communist tyrannies, had lost his place in academic life and run out of how-to-be-happy books ("vomitive"), Wittgenstein called them). In the academic posts he took in America, he found himself, on his past record, a moral outcast and eventually even without money. His renaissance as figurehead of the anti-nuclear movement after the Second World War deserves a book on its own - one in which the roles

of his fourth wife and his rather sinister secretary, Ralph Schoenman, could be even further examined. As in 1918, he had been jailed for advocating acceptance of a German peace offer, at the age of eighty-nine he was - briefly - sent to prison for inciting public disobedience in the anti-nuclear cause.



Ottoline Morrell at thirty-nine

Thirty years before Russell's death at ninety-seven, and not long after she became godmother to his third child, Ottoline Morrell died in her sixties at the hands of a quack doctor. Miranda Seymour's biography of her is to some extent a partisan rehabilitation of the larger-than-life Bloomsbury character who was so much caricatured. The woman who wondered, as she looked back at her years as a generous hostess at Garsington, "what was wrong, why it aroused so much venom in others and why so many people turned against us", had been cruelly lampooned by former guests Aldous Huxley and D. H. Lawrence, among others, as well as continuously mocked behind her back by most of the Bloomsbury set. Seymour establishes her case that Ottoline Morrell was often brave and generous and kind; the malice that pursued her, Seymour attributes to the fact that, unfashionably, she held vague religious beliefs, and also was secretive about her love-affairs. But can that have been quite enough to make so many people so merciless? It seems there must always have been something that her protégés felt to be false about her benevolence, something anxious and strained and gushing that they quickly picked up. Seymour might have quoted the scene at Lady Ottoline's memorial service when Lady Oxford asked a Bloomsbury group why her friends quarrelled with her. "Pause -", wrote Woolf in her diary (a deservedly guilty pause?). "She was exigent, Duncan volunteered at last."

Both biographers agree that Russell's love-affair with Ottoline Morrell (for it was *his* with her) was very deeply felt: influential, and in many ways beneficial, for both. There was a deep sympathy between them which lasted as long as she lived, Russell wrote in his autobiography, emphasizing how both came from aristocratic but lonely backgrounds and had overthrown class conventions. With her in particular, Russell struggled to close the gap between mind and feeling. What kind of life together they might have made is one of literary history's intriguing speculations: certainly not an idyllic one.

Both were generous, in particular financially. Caroline Moorehead simply comments, apropos Russell's lean years, that he had given away his inherited fortune - but is this a small thing?

(Hands up, whoever has done the same.) And both of them, essentially, were brave in their stand against class and convention; many friends turned against Russell for his pacifism in the 1914-18 war, but Ottoline Morrell was firm in her support. What, above all, they shared was a scarcely recognized sense of bereavement. Her much-loved father died when she was four; by the time she was nineteen, her mother had died too. In her diary she wrote, "It is no fun being an oddity for it makes one eternally lonely. Unfortunately, I combine being an oddity with being very proud, and that makes one aloof." Russell described a sense of loneliness even more poignantly - almost shockingly - in a well-known passage in his autobiography: "I have loved a ghost, and in loving a ghost my inmost self has itself become spectral. I have therefore buried it deeper and deeper beneath layers of cheerfulness, affection and joy of life." The ghost, surely, was the mother that in adulthood he could not remember.

Biography cannot ever quite represent the place of such feelings in a life; its nature is to fill pages, with actions and decisions and sayings. But there are also the blank spaces that, rarely, open up and show themselves. This is not to say that Russell was not full of real energy and humour and variety; but we must believe what he himself perceived, what he felt as early as 1905 when comforting a bereaved friend - that buried griefs "burst their tombs, and waited in the desert spaces of one's mind, from which philosophy offered no comfort whatsoever". The lifelong search for an answer to his question, "Can human beings know anything?" could have started in the mind of a child deprived too suddenly of certainties.

So could his instantaneous rapport, not only with Ottoline Morrell, but with Joseph Conrad, also orphaned in childhood - such an extraordinary and instant rapport that he named his two sons after him. The "conversion" he went through at the age of twenty-nine, when he saw Whitehead's wife Evelyn have a heart attack in front of her three-year-old son, must also have been related to his own childhood experience. From that moment, he wrote, he believed that in human relations one should "penetrate to the core of loneliness in each person and speak to that". But the insight he gained then did not make him the best of parents himself. Just as Ottoline's daughter rebelled against her mother's cultural glitter, Russell's rejected her parents' "enlightened" views; and the mental illness of his older son and two granddaughters makes the family ghosts that he feared in adolescence seem all too real. One would not like to have been the child of either of them.

Rosemary Dinnage's books include *The Ruffian on the Stair: Reflections on death, 1990*, and *One to One: Experiences of psychotherapy, 1988*.

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MORE ON NOAM CHOMSKY

RSN, No. 76, November 1992, Section 18, p. 17 discussed Chronicles of Dissent, a new book of Noam Chomsky interviews. We have since encountered two other Chomsky news items of note.

A two hour, 47 minute Chomsky film documentary has begun circulating around art film theaters, such as the Film Center of the Art Institute of Chicago. Compiled by Montreal filmmakers Mark Achbar and Peter Wintonick, Manufacturing Consent: Noam Chomsky and the Media depicts Chomsky the lecturer and interviewee in various settings. Chicago Sun-Times critic Lloyd Sachs wrote in his February 5, 1993 review, "Conversational even in his denunciations, Chomsky is an easy guy to listen to for a radical. It's not difficult to shrug off his charges that modern government, but its nature violent, has the same basic morality as Genghis Khan. But only a head stuck in the sand could fail to appreciate the extent to which the media are designed to distract us from the things that matter most in our lives." Sachs gave the film 3 1/2 stars. We suggest you consider seeking out this film.

A January 1, 1993 Chicago Tribune article by Ron Grossman (Section 5, pp. 1, 5) profiles Chomsky. Titled "Strong Words: At 64, Linguist Noam Chomsky Continues to Say Things Not Everyone Wants to Hear," the article is supplemented by this boxed item: "Being cited in an academic journal is one approximation of intellectual influence. Here are the top 10 most-cited sources in arts and humanities academic journals over a seven-year period inspected by the Institute for Scientific Information, publisher of the Arts & Humanities Index: 1) Karl Marx, 2) Vladimir Lenin, 3) William Shakespeare, 4) Aristotle, 5) Bible, 6) Plato, 7) Sigmund Freud, 8) Noam Chomsky, 9) Georg Hegel, 10) Cicero." Our question would be, Where would Russell be located on such a list?

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A RUSSELL COLLECTIBLE

Main Street Fine Books & Manuscripts (301 South Main Street; Galena, IL 61036; U.S.A.) listed this item for sale in its recently issued Catalog No. 3:

62. RUSSELL, BERTRAND (1872-1970). British philosopher and mathematician awarded the 1950 Nobel prize for literature. Printed DS, 1p, 7" x 10 1/4", Cambridge, England, 1948 May 16. Very good. Updating form for Who's Who in America, to which Russell's 2" x 3" biographical entry from the previous edition has been affixed. Russell has crossed out one line reading "(with Prof. A.N. Whitehead) Principia Mathematica, 1910-13" and written in "Human Knowledge, its scope and limits, 1947" and signed. Comes with a second, similar sheet to which Russell has added the same information. A very unusual piece containing a mini-biography. \$200.00

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RUSSELL AT THE BRITISH HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Steve Shafer, BRS member and an historian and dean at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, read his paper, "Bertrand Russell and the Politicians," at the monthly meeting of the University of Illinois British History Association on February 8, 1993. The meeting was held at the home of University of Illinois Professor of History Caroline Hibbard, a specialist in the Tudor-Stuart period in British history, which, incidentally, is also the area of expertise of BR's son, Conrad Russell.

(Conrad Russell is a professor in the Department of History of King's College, University of London. On April 5, 1990, he visited the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign to speak on "A Not-Quite-Federal State: Britain 1603-1990." See RSN, No. 67, August 1990.)

Steve's paper incorporated material originally intended for his "'Witty, Pungent, Philosophical, Whimsical, and Bitter': Politicians' Perceptions of Bertrand Russell in Britain" presentation made at the BRS's June 1992 annual meeting in Washington, DC. We hope to receive an abstract of his paper for future RSN publication.

In attendance was University of Illinois Professor of Music Nicholas Temperley, who reminisced about being present at a Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament rally at Royal Albert Hall, London. He recalled how, following a succession of less well known speakers, Russell's brief stage appearance was greeted with loud enthusiasm.

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A COMEDIAN READS AND READS AND READS RUSSELL

The comedian in question is Tony Hancock, well known in Britain for his BBC television appearances during the 1950s and 1960s. Hancock was particularly appealing in his regularly scheduled television series, "Hancock's Half-Hour."

Steve Shafer, who has read Jonathan Margolis's Cleese Encounters (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1992), a biography of British comedian-actor John Cleese, reports this item about Hancock from that book (pp. 188-189): Tony Hancock regularly carried two things around his dressing room--a Teddy Bear and a copy of Bertrand Russell's A History of Western Philosophy. This snippet of information was cited in the context of comparing Cleese to Hancock, i.e. both were/are great comedians who were/are also very much interested in serious matters.

Regularly carrying A History of Western Philosophy--an 800+ page book--sounds like something of a literary exaggeration. But it is refreshing to see a reference to Russell connecting him to the world of British television humor.