

## INTRODUCTION

The personal papers and library of Bertrand Russell were acquired by McMaster University on 23 March 1968. By June all the papers had arrived, and the Russell research centre was established. The sorting and microfilming of the papers began immediately, but required a year to complete. They are now in the final stage of being re-filed in acid-free folders and document cases. It is expected that a computer-based catalogue of all the material will eventually appear - when the problems of subject-indexing have been solved.

The sale of Lord Russell's archives was the second of four events since 1967 which seem to have focused much scholarly attention on his life and work, the attention of the previous decade having been mainly journalistic and devoted almost wholly to his nuclear disarmament campaigns. The first event was the publication of Russell's Autobiography (1967-9). Another was his part in the International War Crimes Tribunal. The fourth event to focus scholarly and public attention was his death on February 2nd last year, at the age of 97. Hundreds of obituaries then surveyed and assessed Russell's life as a whole, though most were superficial. Now, with the availability of his Archives, several book-length studies are projected; four others were published last year. Lectures in his honour have been established at Trinity College, Cambridge, and this year's series was given by Noam Chomsky. Next year McMaster plans to celebrate Russell's Centenary with a two- or three-day symposium on several major aspects of his life's work, led by speakers of international standing in their fields.

The purpose of the Russell Archives is to aid scholars and anyone else excited by the array of ideas found in Russell. The papers may be seen by all students and the general public, as well as by researchers. There is a fine reading room, fully equipped with indexes, a microfilm reader-printer, and a selected library of books, articles and theses related to Russell studies. There is also an almost complete collection of first and subsequent editions of his own works. Original material is on display and changed monthly; recent topics were Vietnam and women's suffrage. The reading room is open six days a week and serviced by an experienced staff.

The first issue of Russell: the Journal of the Bertrand Russell Archives marks a new stage in the development of the Archives. Its primary purpose will not be interpretative, but rather bibliographical (in a wide sense). Instead of printing long articles on Russell's thought, it will aim to act as a clearing-house for the scholarly resources of the Russell Archives. Its content, then, will be information, not criticism. There will be bibliographies of writings by and about Russell, book reviews, details of current research topics, and news of publication projects. Occasionally readings will be suggested to illustrate Russell's relevance to contemporary issues. Information on the activities of the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation will of course be included. The reader will be told of up-coming university courses and lectures on Russell. Special attention will be given to describing potential avenues of research in the Archives. Another section will concern biographical and bibliographical queries arising from the papers. Not all these features, however, can appear in every issue of Russell, and new features may appear at the suggestion of readers.

One regular feature will be the listing of newly acquired original material. A major effort has been made to enlarge the Archives by the purchase, exchange or donation of such material in the hands of private individuals or other institutions. This issue makes a start on

listing the acquisitions since the publication of Feinberg's Detailed Catalogue of the Archives of Bertrand Russell (1967).

The submission of articles and notes for possible publication in Russell will be welcomed. Correspondence, including subscriptions, should be addressed to the editor, c/o the Bertrand Russell Archives, McMaster University Library, Hamilton, Ont., Canada. Russell will appear quarterly and a year's subscription costs \$2.00 or £1.00 (via airmail).

- Kenneth Blackwell, editor and Archivist