

EDITOR'S NOTES

It's my pleasure this issue to make four announcements of unusual interest concerning Russell studies. So far as I know, none of these items has been made public before.

New Biography. Ronald W. Clark, whose lengthy biography of Einstein was published this year, has begun work on a major biography of Russell. Although in no way an "official" biographer, he will have the full cooperation of the Russell Estate and McMaster University in his researches. Mr. Clark writes that he is now drawing up a fairly detailed "ground-plan" for the work. Because of the "relative narrowness of Einstein's interests when compared with Russell's", he sees organization of the material as one of the main problems. His second visit to the Russell Archives (the first was in 1969, to research for his Einstein) will be towards the end of next January. As Mr. Clark lives in London, he will probably make use of this trip to North America to interview persons who knew Russell. He would especially like to contact anyone with reminiscences of the early Russell. Anyone with original documents relating to Russell is also asked to let us know so that the biography - and the Archives - may be more complete. Besides the Einstein, Mr. Clark, who is a professional biographer, has written lives of J. B. S. Haldane, the Huxley family, Sir Harry Tizard, Sir John Cockcroft, Sir Mortimer Wheeler, The Birth of the Bomb, several books on mountaineering, and a novel. (Einstein was a recent selection of the Book-of-the-Month Club, certainly the happiest since Russell's Autobiography, and perhaps the most demanding on members since Toynbee's Study of History!)

New Letters. An excursion to Austin while vacationing in Texas this summer revealed an astonishing collection of Russell letters at the University of Texas. The collection is comprised of 1,770 letters from him to Lady Ottoline Morrell. They are the complement to Lady Ottoline's letters to Russell, which, with typed copies of some of his replies, are in the Russell Archives but embargoed until 1975. The correspondence extends from 1910 to 1938 and is an eloquent expression of Russell's passionate nature. He and Lady Ottoline write about not only the famous personages who were their friends but ideas and daily events as well, making the correspondence invaluable as a source of precise details about Russell's life. Professor Elizabeth R. Eames, who has already used the papers at Austin, comments that they are "very exciting" and confirm an hypothesis I offered in Dialogue (March 1969, p. 612) on why a certain long Ms had remained unpublished. Persons wishing to use the letters should apply to the Librarian, Academic Center, University of Texas, Austin, Texas 78712.

New Collection. In Russell 2 there was a mention of the display of the Thompson collection of Russelliana at Fullerton State College. McMaster has since acquired the collection. It consists of some 1,000 items, including 5 unpublished Mss, 2 that have been published, 4 corrected typescripts, and 16 letters signed by Russell; plus books and magazines. The unpublished Mss are all about 20 pages long and all seem to date from the winter of 1923-4, when Russell was preparing for his U.S. lecture tour of 1924, and are on political and social topics. Also unpublished is a 1965 letter to Mr. Norman Sturgis enclosing some radio scripts on Vietnam which Sturgis had offered to broadcast over a San Francisco radio station. The letter complains of the difficulties Russell met in disseminating his views in the United States. An accompanying anonymous note states that "the cable, etc., were preceded by a telephone call from Lord Russell, who did take a personal and active role in his work, despite efforts in the U.S. [and British - ed. 's note]

news media to attribute his views to others." The books include a good many rarities, some of which local collectors had not seen before. Some examples are the vellum edition of A Free Man's Worship (with Russell's special preface, 1923), an original leatherbound, signed copy of The Problems of Philosophy, galley proofs of Power (Norton ed.), and An Inquiry into Meaning and Truth (Norton ed.) in the dust-jacket. The importance of this last lies in the jacket blurb. The Archives have the Ms of the blurb, but it was not known whether the publisher used it, since Norton's correspondence with Russell shows him trying to convince Russell to make the book seem more popular than it could be. The Ms of the blurb is, in fact, reproduced very nearly word for word. Also among the rarities are Ideals of Science and Faith (1904), which contains the first reprinting of "The Free Man's Worship" and which has unique substantive changes in the text; Jørgen Jørgensen's Bertrand Russell (1935), inscribed by the author; and Bertrand Russell: Tre Studier by Gunnar Aspelin, Anders Wedberg, and E.N. Tigerstedt (1950). Finally, the magazines revealed some hitherto unknown articles by Russell, such as "Education in Democracy" in California Monthly, September 1940.

New Volume of Russell's Fiction. Under the title of "The Collected Stories of Bertrand Russell", a volume bringing together virtually all of Russell's fictional writings will appear during his Centenary year. It is being edited by Barry Feinberg, who co-edited the Detailed Catalogue of the Archives of Bertrand Russell and Dear Bertrand Russell. The outstanding item in the volume will be the first publication of the 1912 novelette "The Perplexities of John Forstice". Russell explains in a short preface why he would not allow it to appear in his lifetime. Also published for the first time will be a large body of historical anecdotes which Russell recorded on tape. This reminds one that he liked to call his last years his "anecdoteage".

Other News. Christopher Farley, Russell's principal secretary from 1966 to his death, has agreed to give one of the major public addresses at the Centenary celebrations which will be held at McMaster next year.

Victor F. Lenzen, whose article on Russell's early seminars appears in this issue, is emeritus professor of physics at the University of California, Berkeley. He has kindly donated a photocopy of a term paper he wrote for one of the seminars. It is accompanied by 6 pages of comments by Russell. Their tone is characteristically direct. Russell begins: "p. 8. How can you maintain that with similar data everybody will make the same judgment? This is the usual idealistic error of forgetting error." The original is deposited in the Bancroft Library, Berkeley. In addition, Professor Lenzen is sending the Archives some 150 pages of notes he took during Russell's 1914 Harvard course on theory of knowledge.

During the winter term at the University of Toronto, Professor John Slater will offer a course designed "to give the full sweep of Russell's philosophical career, which spanned some 70 years and touched nearly every part of philosophy." The course number is PHL 232S. It is stressed that the lectures will be at the undergraduate level.

Russell has now 125 paying subscribers. Subscription details will be found on the back page.

Bertrand Russell Archives

Kenneth Blackwell