

Bertrand Russell was in residence at Harvard University during the spring term of 1914 and conducted courses in Logic and Theory of Knowledge. This essay consists of reminiscences of a student in those courses, and in subsequent seminars under Mr. Russell in England.

I entered the University of California, Berkeley, as a freshman in the College of Mechanics in August, 1909. My aim was a career in engineering, and possibly in science, but during my sophomore year I became interested in philosophy and changed my field to that subject. I began the study of the foundations of mathematics with Professor B.A. Bernstein, a pioneer mathematician in the field of axiomatics, but soon came under the influence of Clarence Irving Lewis, who came to the University from Harvard in 1912. Lewis had been Assistant to Professor Josiah Royce, who presented him with the copy of Principia Mathematica, Volume I, which Royce had received from Russell. Dr. Lewis did not like the concept of material implication upon which the Principia is based, and before leaving Harvard had written his first paper on "strict" implication, "Implication and the Algebra of Logic", which was published in Mind (1912). I soon came under the spell of Professor Lewis, who taught post-Kantian Idealism as well as Logic. Professor Lewis especially recommended that I obtain Russell's Problems of Philosophy, which he declared discussed problems that were in the field of contemporary interest. I also obtained a copy of Principia Mathematica, Vol. I. During my association with Mr. Russell, he autographed these books for me and I have given them to the Rare Books Room of the University of California Library.

During my senior year, Professor Lewis told me with great enthusiasm that he had heard that Russell was coming to Harvard the following year. He recommended that I go there for graduate work. "It is the chance of a lifetime," he declared. In further efforts on my behalf, Professor Lewis secured for me the Scholarship of the Harvard Club of San Francisco. Accordingly, in September, 1913, I traveled to Boston.

Mr. Russell - I wish to emphasize the fact that he was so known to us students - was unable to arrive at Harvard by the beginning of the spring term, 1914. While we awaited his arrival, Dr. Harry Todd Costello conducted the course in Logic, and Professor Royce the course in Theory of Knowledge. My notes on the latter course indicate that Mr. Russell's first class was held on March 17th. At this time in the history of the United States, the principal philosophical interest was the New Realism, or Neo-Realism. The movement was founded by six philosophers, including Ralph Barton Perry, Chairman of the Philosophy Dept. at Harvard, and Edwin Bissell Holt, of the Psychology Department. In view of the realistic basis of Russell's Principles of Mathematics, the latter work was a foundation of the realistic philosophy. Thus Russell's visit to Harvard excited extraordinary interest. Professor Royce was still lecturing on Absolute Idealism, but he was one of the proponents of mathematical logic in the nation and welcomed Russell as a logician. Indeed, Professor Royce said to me about Russell, "He has received more attention than any logician since Aristotle." To the students, Mr. Russell was an almost superhuman person. I can not adequately describe the respect, adoration, and even awe which he inspired. He was very kind and hospitable to students. He had an apartment in a house a few blocks from Harvard Square, and once a week he was at home for tea for us students. His witty remarks, uttered with a quizzical smile, were heard with delight. I especially recall one remark in his first meeting with the small class in Logic (for which I have no notes); he said, "A fact is not a thing. When I say that I am talking nonsense. Never-

theless, I want you to take it as a profound truth." This paradoxical statement manifested the influence of Wittgenstein. Mr. Russell told us about the latter, his genius, and his original ideas. He told us about a meeting between Wittgenstein and Whitehead, on which occasion the former paced the floor and made esoteric pronouncements about logic. In the class in Logic, Mr. Russell brought forth proof sheets of the Treatise on Probability, by John Maynard Keynes, which had not yet been published. He said of the father of J.M.K., "J.N. Keynes wrote an old-fashioned logic book, but his son is a much abler man." (Professor Lewis had recommended to me Formal Logic, by John Neville Keynes, as the best book on the classical Aristotelian Logic.)

The class in Logic was a small class for special students in the field. The course in Theory of Knowledge was of more general interest and was attended practically by all students. Even the Chairman of the Department, whose essay in the New Realism exhibited the influence of Russell's Principles, attended the class. On one occasion when Mr. Russell was expounding his dualism between mind and matter, a question raised by Raphael Demos, who was an incisive questioner, caused Professor Perry to be drawn into defense of his behavioristic theory of mind. When Russell came to Harvard, he had completed his work on Volumes I, II, and III of the Principia, on which he told us he had worked 10 hours a day for 13 years. He said that Volume IV on Geometry was to be prepared by Whitehead. Mr. Russell at the time was especially interested in applying the methods of mathematical logic to problems of philosophy, as scientific method in philosophy. He set forth the new method of extensive abstraction, the invention of which he attributed to Whitehead. During his residence at Harvard, he gave a series of lectures under the auspices of the Lowell Institute in Boston. Of course, we students attended those lectures.

Bertrand Russell was at the height of his fame as a pure philosopher during the Harvard period. As I look over my notes on the course in Theory of Knowledge, I find items that I have not seen published, even in Analysis of Matter, which, with Philosophy, I reviewed in the Journal of Philosophy in 1929. Mr. Russell said on occasion that he was leaving technical matters to younger people. It appears to me that World War I turned him away from technical philosophy largely in favor of political, moral, and educational writing.

I early became known to Mr. Russell during his residence at Harvard. He invited me to dinner at the Colonial Club. The previous term I had written a term paper, "Causality", for Dr. Costello's course in Logic. This paper opened with a quotation from Russell's paper, "On the Notion of Cause", in Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society, 1912-13. This subject came under discussion, and in view of my declared interest in philosophy of science, Mr. Russell told me that he wanted me to write a paper on causality for him. He stated that the subject should be treated from the standpoint of differential equations. I had mentioned this topic in my paper for Dr. Costello, but I decided then and there that my preparation was not adequate to the task at the time. This was the beginning of the considerations which finally led to my abandonment of a career in philosophy for one in physics. It was only after many years of experience in the teaching of generalized dynamics after the manner of Whittaker that I made an attempt to fulfill Russell's task in Causality in Natural Science, 1954. My term paper for Mr. Russell in 1914 was entitled "The Theory of Judgment", and he wrote six pages of detailed comment, and these items are now in the Bancroft Library of the University of California, Berkeley.

Although my interest in a philosophical career had declined, I completed my work for the doctorate in philosophy in 1916, and at the express

urging of my professors and the Dean of the Graduate School, I reluctantly accepted a Sheldon Traveling Fellowship for study in England and France. In September, 1916, I traveled to England, in order to study at Cambridge. In London I visited with Mr. Russell one evening at 57 Gordon Square, the house of his brother, the then Earl Russell. His room was on the top floor, and he sat at his desk while I was seated beside him. Above the desk were two small framed portraits, one of Leibniz, the other of Frege. As I looked up at the portraits, he remarked in his characteristic manner, "I have these two Huns to keep me company." He also said, "Leibniz had the modern mind." At this time, T.S. Eliot, who had also been a student of Russell's at Harvard, was in England, and in contact with Russell. Mr. Russell gave me Eliot's address and remarked humorously, "he writes great poetry."

In England, I took up residence in Cambridge and attended lectures by Sir J.J. Thomson, G.E. Moore, and some others. Once a week I journeyed to London and joined a group of four students who met with Mr. Russell for study of Principia Mathematica in a room on the first floor of Earl Russell's house. The four students were: Dorothy Wrinch, who later held positions at Smith College; Jean Nicod; Armstrong; and myself. Nicod was a brilliant young Frenchman, tall, blond, and spare, who later wrote a book on Induction which was highly regarded. I visited him and his wife in Paris after March, 1917. He passed away at an early age. Armstrong, whose first name or initial I never learned, had been discharged from the Army after a disabling injury, so I understood. The text for these seminars with Russell was Volume I of the Principia. The introduction, which was written by Russell [cf. Whitehead, Process and Reality, p.10 - ed.'s note] contains topics of great philosophical interest, such as the theory of descriptions and the theory of types. This introduction was of especial interest since it represented Russell's work, as he told us. Many years after its publication, this introduction was still being discussed by students of logic.

The second week in December, 1916, Mr. Russell and his four students were invited to spend a week of holiday at the Manor House, Garsington, near Oxford, of Mr. Philip Morrell, M.P., and Lady Ottoline Morrell. Mr. Russell lectured to us in the morning, we took walks together in the country, and enjoyed social activities with the family and guests.

My association with Bertrand Russell has been one of the most rewarding influences in my life, and I am deeply grateful for the courtesy and kindness he bestowed upon me.

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