

We are in the process of soliciting American subscribers to *Russell* for ideas pertaining to organization and aims. We invite the interest and membership of all readers. (No dues at this time.)

Topics of discussion at weekly Sunday breakfasts have been the philosophical vacuum in youth; general acceptance of *The Conquest of Happiness* by those we have reached; problems connected with Russell as a target of religious groups; the need for a concordance of Russell's works; and financial and other problems of organization.

Additional working members are Sylvia Moore, secretary, R.J. Kuckleberg who will shortly receive his Ph.D. in psychology and will undertake the organization of the Georgia Society, and Irvin Ashkenazy, a professional writer in Pasadena, who will serve as our contact in California.

Despite the implication of Whitman's poem in *The Conquest of Happiness* motto, an element of mysticism has entered into the deliberations of the Society:

May 2, 1972: Excerpt from letter to Dr. John E. Thomas announcing the organization of the society:

We had English muffins in lieu of communion wafers, but were unable to obtain Red Hackle Scotch.

May 19, 1972: Address of suppliers found in Archives.

May 23, 1972: Letter to Hepburn and Ross, Glasgow, W.2, Scotland:

I shall appreciate it very much if you can tell me how I may obtain Red Hackle Scotch in my country.

The American Bertrand Russell Society has its home office here, and it has decided that our meetings and deliberations can be enhanced by the spirits which clearly did not diminish the mental or sexual powers of our Lord; and, in want of a better hypothesis, we believe that the Red Hackle Scotch immunized him against diseases that would have otherwise prevented his contributions of later years.

May 31, 1972: Letter from Mr. Marshall of Hepburn and Ross to Dr. Cranford.

Many thanks for your kind letter of the 23rd inst., from which I was delighted to learn that the American Bertrand Russell Society had decided to use our Red Hackle Scotch Whisky at their meetings and deliberations. We have corresponded with the Earl Russell for many years and have a number of very amusing letters from him.

In August 1963 he writes:

"My house in London was recently entered by a burglar. He found two bottles of Red Hackle, consumed them on the spot, and thereupon considered further depredations unnecessary. I consider this a tribute to Red Hackle and accordingly feel that I owe you a debt of gratitude."

Extract from letter dated January 1964:

"I had no suspicion that they could be, or frequently were, so cleverly tapped - not but what the evil doers have some sympathy from me: Red Hackle is very good."

P.S. to a letter - September 1961:

*"I often wonder what the vinters buy
One half so precious as the stuff they sell."
Omar Khayyam.*

Undoubtedly he was one of the greatest controversial figures of our time. It was indeed a pleasure to have served him.

To the Editor of "Russell"

THE FOUNDING AND TENTATIVE AIMS OF THE AMERICAN BERTRAND RUSSELL SOCIETY

The text for today: *As for a Bertrand Russell Society, I think it had better wait until I am dead.* (Russell)

The American Bertrand Russell Society was founded on April 23, 1972, in Augusta, Georgia, by Peter G. Cranford, a practicing clinical psychologist, Michael C. Moore of the sociology department of Augusta College, and Sergeant David G. Albertson of Fort Gordon, Georgia.

In 1971, Dr. Cranford contacted the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation to see what plans existed for the promotion of Russell's ideas. It was learned that the Russell Archives were located at McMaster University. John E. Thomas, then chairman of the philosophy department there, suggested a discussion of the matter with Christopher Farley and Ken Blackwell.

It was originally intended to organize a society at the local level. However, when it was learned that no Russell Society existed in America to assist in the project, it was decided by the group that it would be more useful to organize at the higher level.

The present tentative aims of the Society are to provide a rallying point and clearing house for Americans interested in examining, disseminating and actively promoting Russell's ideas. (The present address is The American Bertrand Russell Society; 2108 1/2 Walton Way; Augusta, Georgia 30904; Phone: 736 3514; Attention: Dr. G. Cranford.)

We are making relatively individual efforts of promotion at this time. Dr. Cranford has distributed about 500 copies of *The Conquest of Happiness* over a period of about 10 years to patients and friends. Sgt. Albertson proposed and is working on a pilot project to distribute *The Conquest of Happiness* in motels as a supplement to the Gideon Bible. Michael Moore is heavily involved in a study of Russell's ideas in the area of sociology - particularly in reference to scepticism.

We have written to our American Importers;

*Peerless Importers, Inc.,
16, Bridgewater Street,
Brooklyn, New York 11222*

asking them to forward a case of our Red Hackle Scotch Whisky to you with our compliments, with advise as to where future supplies could be purchased.

July 4, 1972: Located nearest supplier - 300 miles away. We must pick up our case in person by law.

To date: For one reason and another the fates have balked our attempts to obtain delivery. However, we are continuing our efforts and plan to have the Red Hackle available at the McMaster Celebrations at which time we shall encourage motions to incorporate the material, through the proper channels, into the agenda. If the Red Hackle fails to materialize, it will be due to the obstruction of national boundaries, an evil Russell so wisely condemned.

David M. Albertson

Peter G. Cranford

Michael C. Moore
