

The second Russell Archives

a first report

When McMaster acquired the original Russell Archives in April 1968, its contents were defined by Feinberg's *Detailed Catalogue of the Archives of Bertrand Russell*, which had been published the year before. Lord Russell had, understandably enough, as he remarked in the *Catalogue's* preface, withheld "many of the letters which I have written on behalf of the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation" and "letters which are confidential". The second category included correspondence with his second, third and fourth wives, his children, grandchildren, and legal and financial agencies. Too, Russell lived nearly four years after he assembled his first Archives, and in that time a great deal of documentation was created by his correspondents, aides, and himself. Since Lord Russell's death, McMaster had been negotiating for the Second Archives, but negotia-

tions were not completed until the final day of McMaster's Russell Centenary Celebrations. After the final paper, Professor Ready announced this new acquisition.

The negotiations for Archives II had been drawn out because they included much else besides the papers themselves. McMaster now has clear ownership of the copyright in all of Russell's unpublished letters and manuscripts, no matter where the originals are or whether copies ever come to McMaster. This transfer of rights should help to centralize the control of the use of Russell's unpublished writings, but McMaster has now a considerable responsibility to use that control for the best interests of the public, scholars, and Russell's memory. Also negotiated was an agreement regarding the project known as *The Collected Papers of Bertrand Russell*. Russell's books are almost all in print. His letters are still being collected. But his 2000 essays are, for the most part, buried in journals that only large libraries have. The *Collected Papers* will reprint almost all of Russell's articles, both published and unpublished, on all subjects. It is hoped that an official announcement of the project will appear in the near future.

Archives II arrived at McMaster this summer. It is now being classified and ordered, and will later be microfilmed. Some sections are already available to researchers. Its bulk is at least as great as the original Archives. We estimate that Archives II is comprised of about 75,000 pieces.

The confidential letters that Russell held back appear to be of the greatest biographical interest. Most of these letters, however, are under embargo. Russell stipulated in the original contract with McMaster that papers relating to his last three wives, children and grandchildren, and to Lady Ottoline Morrell and Lady Constance Malleson be embargoed until the survivor of Russell and the individual concerned had been dead five years. Thus the first embargo to expire will be that on the letters of Lady Ottoline Morrell, which came with Archives I. That embargo will expire on February 2nd, 1975. It is ironic that Russell's replies to Lady Ottoline are readily available at the University of Texas.

The research interests in Archives II will no doubt focus on the personal and political correspondence. Russell continued to keep up with old friends and old interests. Some old friends represented in Archives II are A.J. Ayer, Max Born, Cyrus Eaton, Julian Huxley, A.S. Neill and Arnold Toynbee, among many others. In addition, there is a valuable addendum to the correspondence with Alys, Russell's first wife, which fills in gaps in our knowledge of Russell's early life. There is some philosophy, in the form of replies to correspondents' queries.

As most people realize, Russell devoted the working energies of his last decade almost entirely to politics. The nuclear disarmament

campaigns were fully covered in Archives I. In Archives II we find Russell broadening his concerns, with the help of the Peace Foundation he formed in 1964. Vietnam is the main concern, and the International War Crimes Tribunal is extensively documented. So are the Foundation's activities with regard to political prisoners in the USSR and USA, and many other countries. More or less connected with the political sections are several files labelled "press abuse". Some relate to Russell's attempts to counter the increasing personal hostility of Establishment newspapers. Others concern silly annoyances, like *Penthouse* magazine saying Russell would write for it on sex, or Honeywell Computers advertising that Russell was dead. Russell won lawsuits against both.

The publication of Russell's autobiography, with its many confessions, seems to have increased even further Russell's stature with the public as a father-confessor. There are thousands of letters in which individuals tell Russell of their personal troubles or triumphs. There is even a lengthy diary which someone felt compelled to send Russell. No one has yet explained the phenomenon of Russell's intimate relationship with people he never met.

Archives II completes the collection of his papers that Russell himself made. Although we are continuously adding to that collection from other sources, the Russell Archives may now be considered reasonably comprehensive.

- K.B.

Personal and political pages from Archives II

What is the new idea? How is it different from the old one?
 II. Do we want to start a new American?
 1. The new idea is to start a new American?
 2. The new idea is to start a new American?
 3. The new idea is to start a new American?
 4. The new idea is to start a new American?
 5. The new idea is to start a new American?

It seems that both Khrushchev & President Johnson are inclined to seek an end to the cold war, but there are still powerful forces, both in East & West, in favour of its continuance. How is this attitude justified?

Israeli withdrawal from all the territories occupied in June 1967. A new world campaign is needed to help bring justice to the long-suffering people of the Middle East.

Bertrand Russell
 January 31 1970

Dear Spencer Brown
 I hang in you with a couple of letters, but I'm sorry I can't give you two copies to give you a whole I am deeply sorry to hear of the death of your son
 Yours ever
 Bertrand Russell

Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation
 MESSAGE FROM BERTRAND RUSSELL TO THE PEOPLE OF VIETNAM

Why is the world in such a state of chaos?
 1. The world is in such a state of chaos because of the atomic bomb.
 2. The world is in such a state of chaos because of the atomic bomb.
 3. The world is in such a state of chaos because of the atomic bomb.
 4. The world is in such a state of chaos because of the atomic bomb.
 5. The world is in such a state of chaos because of the atomic bomb.

These almost unbelievable atrocities were committed by troops under American authority - an authority for which we are held responsible. The U.S. Government hopes that it is possible to be in the cause of freedom and justice for all men. It is the duty of every American to support the U.S. Government in its efforts to bring about a world of peace and justice for all men.

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Press Statement
 The bombing of Hanoi must be recognized as a criminal act of aggression against the people of North Vietnam. This bombing makes clear that the United States is intending to continue its policy of aggression against the people of North Vietnam. The British Government should condemn this latest American outrage. A major initiative is the scale of the war, including the American people's support for the United States and its allies. The bombing of Hanoi must be recognized as a criminal act of aggression against the people of North Vietnam. This bombing makes clear that the United States is intending to continue its policy of aggression against the people of North Vietnam. The British Government should condemn this latest American outrage. A major initiative is the scale of the war, including the American people's support for the United States and its allies.