

Editor's notes

The Bertrand Russell Society. Talking with the other 10 "founders" of the Society in New York earlier this month led me to reflect that it would hardly matter if the Society accomplished nothing else but occasionally to bring together, over an ounce or two of Red Hackle, people with common interests in Russell. But no doubt the various action committees will accomplish more than that. Tid-bits gleaned from the *New York Times* while there: Jane Fonda's anti-war protests were in part inspired by the "Russell tribunal" investigating U.S. war crimes in Vietnam; and the reviewer of Macmillan's memoirs covering the Cuban Crisis remarked that Russell was the only effective Englishman at the time.

Contributors. John G. Slater, associate professor of philosophy and chairman of the department of philosophy at the University of Toronto, was chosen several years ago to be general editor of *The Collected Essays of Bertrand Russell*. Lester E. Denonn, who possesses one of the two largest private collections of Russelliana, compiled the original Russell bibliography for P.A. Schilpp's *The Philosophy of Bertrand Russell*, now in its fifth edition. He and Robert E. Egner are soon bringing out an enlarged edition of *The Basic Writings of Bertrand Russell*.

New Russell Debate. I had heard rumours that Russell had debated with Mortimer J. Adler, but could find no listing of the debate in any catalogue. Even Dr. Adler, who, when I wrote him, confirmed that the debate took place (in Chicago), denied ever seeing it in printed form. But thanks to the kindness of The Guild Bookshop in Chicago, we now have a photocopy of it. It is a 24-page mimeographed typescript, with the title-page as follows: SINAI TEMPLE FORUM / presents / DEBATE: ARE THERE ABSOLUTE PRINCIPLES ON WHICH EDUCATION SHOULD BE FOUNDED? / by / BERTRAND RUSSELL ... and / DR. MORTIMER J. ADLER ... / SINAI TEMPLE / 4600 South Parkway / [21 January ?] 1941. Only one original is known to exist, and we do not know who has it; but there must be more copies around in Chicago. There may even be another printed debate with Adler. He told me at a reception for the new *Encyclopaedia Britannica* that he agreed to a second debate with Russell, providing Russell would take the *affirmative* position for once. It took Russell half a year to find a proposition he would defend! It was: Resolved that science is enough for the good life and the good society. According to Adler, in less than five minutes Russell was negating this proposition.

Quotations. Can anyone help us with these alleged quotations from Russell? (1) Concerning Locke's primary qualities, did Russell use the expression "the self-assertion of matter"? (2) Russell invented the word game of "I am firm, you are obstinate, he is a pig-headed fool". But when? Was it not earlier than the *New Statesman* competition of 5 June 1948? And did he call this irregular verb a "bastard conjugation"? (3) "Logic and mathematics ... are the alphabet of the book of nature, not the book itself" quoted by Wood in *My Philosophical Development*, p. 277. (4) "Philosophers are fond of endless puzzles about ethical values and the basis of morals. My own belief is that as far as politics and practical living are concerned, we can sweep aside all these puzzles, and use common sense principles" (Wood, *Passionate Sceptic*, p. 231).

Russell and Trotsky. A new compilation, *Trotsky on Britain* (New York: Pathfinder Press, 1973), includes both Russell's 1926 review of Trotsky's *Where is Britain Going?* and Trotsky's hitherto untranslated rejoinder. He considered Russell "a mathematician in philosophy, a philosopher in mathematics, an aristocrat in democracy, and a dilettante in socialism." Too bad!

Omission. The citation for the original publication of Russell's unsigned review of Boutroux's *William James* (reprinted in *Russell 11*) is the *Cambridge Review*, 34(5 Dec. 1912), 176.

Russell's signature. A recent catalogue issued by Charles Hamilton Auctions of New York purports to distinguish between two reproduced signatures as secretarial and genuine. Alas, the one designated "secretarial" is as genuine as can be. The other looks as if it was written by Russell while descending from a cab during an earthquake. Hamilton's hastily inducted conclusion that Russell rarely, in old age, signed his letters is also mistaken. The evidence of the Archives is the complete converse. The Archives has documents signed in virtually every year of his life, including his Middle East message signed two days before he died. Maybe we ought to run a page of facsimiles of Russell's signature showing how it changed over the years. That might help auctioneers to identify real forgeries.

Russell and Coltrane. A frequent user of the Archives, Mr. John Kellar, has created for his private enjoyment a remarkable tape contrasting two views of God. One is John Coltrane's backed up by his jazz; the other is Russell's. This juxtaposition of mysticism and logic entertained us one afternoon in the Archives.

New Acquisitions. Mrs. C.M. (Celeste) MacFadden, of Pompano Beach, Florida, has donated her 22 letters from Russell to his Archives. They date from 1928-1931 and mostly concern Beacon Hill School, which her daughter attended. But in one letter during an American lecture tour, Russell, in excusing his informal behaviour the previous evening, remarked "You don't know what a relief it is to a Living Buddha to be allowed for a moment not to sit cross-legged looking wise."

Russell in Review. Publication is still scheduled for June 1974. A.M. Hakkert Ltd. hope that the price will be less than \$12.00.

The Bertrand Russell Archives

Kenneth Blackwell