

An inquiry

Jourdain's copy of Principia Mathematica

Philip Jourdain attended Russell's lectures on mathematical logic of 1901-1902, and until his death in 1919 he conducted a considerable correspondence with Russell. I am preparing an edition of the surviving portions, which is mostly from the years 1902-1910. Unfortunately most other Jourdainiana is now lost; if any readers have come across any of his manuscripts or correspondence, I should be interested to know.

After Jourdain's death most of his library was sold to Manchester Library, but some parts went elsewhere and for various reasons much of it now is dispersed. In 1967 the bookseller H.K. Elliott sold Jourdain's presentation set of the first edition of *Principia Mathematica*. The catalogue entry describes it as containing "numerous interesting manuscript notes throughout", which I can well believe; Jourdain was an extremely perceptive critic of Russell's work.

Despite some enquiries by myself and especially by Dr. J.M. Rollett, the purchaser of this set has not been located. Elliott died in 1969 and his widow has no record of the transaction. If any reader happens to come across the set, I would be very glad to hear about it. First editions of *Principia Mathematica* are rare anyway, and Jourdain's set will probably have carried his bookplate.

Middlesex Polytechnic at Enfield
England

I. Grattan-Guinness