

## ***Report of The Bertrand Russell Society***

The Bertrand Russell Society is now six months old. It began with eleven founders and now has about forty members in Canada and the United States with several in other countries. Lady Russell and Lester E. Denonn are the only honorary members at this point.

Membership is open to anyone who has an interest in Russell. Although there is no formal distinction between members, what seems to be evolving is that one group is in the Society to keep up with what is going on, another group wants a home within which they can serve themselves philosophically and serve society at large more tangibly. Another group wants to start where Russell left off - and in effect be missionaries for rationality, pursuing his purposes but at the same time in the sceptical manner he advised. These members feel a philosophical obligation to Russell, consider themselves Russellites, have invested considerable time, money, or both in pushing the organization along, and appear to have committed themselves permanently to the Society.

The Society has tried to go one step beyond democracy into a "super-democracy". There is a great deal of correspondence flowing between the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, chairpersons, and old and new members. The members are usually on a first name basis, something that has developed rather spontaneously. Members are free with both criticism and praise, and except for a few slip-ups this has been directed at ideas rather than persons. Members as a group are of unusually high intelligence and exemplify in more or less degree the outlook of Russell himself. The type of intelligence the Society has attracted is of the kind that is well leavened with common sense. A good proportion of the group are writers. Ages of members vary from the early twenties to the late seventies.

The slogan of the Society, prominently carried on the letter-head, is the famous quotation from *What I Believe*: "The good life is one inspired by love and guided by knowledge."

Augusta, Georgia

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