

Editor's notes

Ronald Clark's biography. *The Life of Bertrand Russell* was published in Britain on October 30th. It is being serialized in the *Sunday Times* in four parts, and major reviews appeared on the day of publication. The reviews, like the serialization, fasten on Russell's marriages and affairs. But Clark's book covers Russell's life in all its aspects, and adds enormously to our knowledge of his world of achievement. C.P. Snow, in the *Financial Times*, judged it "the best of Mr. Clark's valuable contributions to intellectual biography". The long review in the *Times Literary Supplement* was even better, and is worth looking up (Oct. 31st issue) if you're not expecting to see the book for some time. It described Clark's opus as a "whole, long, contoured view of the complex man, like an aerial photograph", "a mine of material", "absorbing". Russell, says the reviewer, was an "insatiable romantic" who "may yet be remembered for his love letters rather than his logic". The new *Life* clearly shows Russell's "preference for energy, folly, and assertion over safety". (Come to think of it, safety *is* dull. Perhaps that is why many prefer *The Principles of Mathematics* to *Principia*, which is an expression of a wish for safety if there ever was one.)

Contributors. Irving Block is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Western Ontario. He is convening an enormous conference there next March to mark the 25th anniversary of Wittgenstein's death. Ibrahim Najjar and Heather Kirkconnell are both graduates of McMaster. Mr. Najjar is now a doctoral student in philosophy at the University of Toronto, and Ms. Kirkconnell is doing a master's in comparative literature there. Dr. I. Grattan-Guinness is editor of *Annals of Science* and has recently published in it his study of Russell and his one-time student, Norbert Wiener.

Colette. Lady Constance Malleson, also known by her stage name of Colette O'Neil, died on October 5th, 1975. She was just 25 days short of her 80th birthday. *The Times* obituary, though omitting much in her life, aptly called her "generous, loyal and impulsive". John G. Slater is writing an obituary for *Russell*, to appear in the next issue.

Staffing the Archives. The crisis continues, and researchers may find that complex photocopy requests take a bit longer than usual to be filled. We have, however, been given the services, for two days a week, of Ms. Terry Smart in sorting the voluminous contents of Archives II, and Ms. Linda Hanes has taken over the bookkeeping for *Russell* subscriptions.

The Bertrand Russell Society. The annual meeting is being held in New York City on December 26, 27, 28, as usual in the Tudor Hotel. For details, write to Lee Eisler, R.D. 1, Box 409, Coopersburg, PA 18036.

Visitors and researchers. Gladys Leithauser, Edward H. Pauley, R. Alexander Brink, Walter H. O'Briant, Kazuo Ohfuti, Alex Knopp, and Morris Kline (who gave the Redman Lectures on mathematics this year) were recently at the Russell Archives.

The price of "Russell". Because of increased costs we have to raise subscription rates. Details on p. 31.

The Bertrand Russell Archives

Kenneth Blackwell