Note on Russell's anticipations

Mention has been made in Russell of an anticipation by Russell of Quine's existence criterion, and of a possible anticipation of Lewis's definition of "strict implication". Although Russell did not, strictly speaking, anticipate Nelson Goodman's famous "grue-bleen paradox", first published in a brief note in 1946, Russell did, I believe, publish a discussion of what is, in all essentials, the same problem in Human Knowledge in 1948. Goodman's and Russell's discoveries of this paradox were evidently quite independent of one another. What is quite remarkable, however, is that Russell, in contrast to Goodman, also provided a resolution of the problem -- one which I believe to be quite satisfactory. I have discussed this matter in some detail in "Russell on Scientific Inference or Will the Real Deductivist Please Stand Up?" section 3, in Bertrand Russell's Philosophy, ed. George Nakhnikian (London: Duckworth, 1974), pp. 180-92. In Goodman's better known presentation, Fact, Fiction and Forecast (1st ed., 1955; 2nd ed. 1965), he seems unaware of the relevance of Russell's solution to his paradox. This strikes me as another example of a widely unappreciated important accomplishment to be found in Russell's work.

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