

## Editor's notes

Contributors. John G. Slater is associate professor of philosophy at the University of Toronto and Consultant to the Russell Archives. Soon after he wrote his obituary of Constance Malleon, he sought for more information from her old friend, Dame Sybil Thorndike. He received the following reply from her secretary. Dame Sybil herself died on June 9th.

Dear Mr. Slater,

Dame Sybil is not at all well, and has asked me to answer your letter. Dame Sybil said: "Colette was a dear friend of mine. I am sorry I was unable to see her during her last years.

My memories of her in Africa include her working at her typewriter, at 5 A.M. on train journeys. She was very industrious, and never ceased writing. Lewis [Casson] and I were both very fond of her.

April 5th, 1976.

Yours sincerely,  
M. Forsyth.

Carl Spadoni is a doctoral candidate at the University of Waterloo completing a dissertation on "Russell's Rebellion against Neo-Hegelianism". The five-year Index to *Russell* owes much to Jean Sanguine, who worked in the Archives for a few months earlier this year until the money ran out.

Russell appointment at McMaster. The Philosophy Department has appointed a specialist in the philosophy of Russell. He is Nicholas Griffin, of England, who received his Ph.D. from the Australian National University. His book, *Relative Identity*, will be published by the Oxford University Press early in 1977. Dr. Griffin is currently offering a graduate course at McMaster on Russell's philosophy beginning with Russell's interaction with Meinong in 1904.

BR's letters to Colette. They have arrived, nine months after her death(!). Instead of 802 letters, as we expected, they comprise 787 letters and 42 telegrams, plus a number of other letters from other persons concerning Russell. About 200 letters were written during the First World War, and provide new details on Russell's extensive work for peace. One day he finished a *Ploughshare* article, wrote an editorial for the *Tribunal*, and "approximately" 50 million letters. But their real worth is that they tell a great deal more, and reach profounder levels, than any previous accounts--published or unpublished--of Russell's relationship with Colette. -- Sybil Thorndike noted how hard Colette worked at her writing. The letters reveal that Russell helped her publish her first story. It was "The End", under the pseudonym of Christine Harte, in the *English Review*, 29 (Sept. 1919), 235-8. The story has got to be about BR. He, in fact, acted as her agent in dealings with the editor, Austin Harrison, and wanted her to go on with writing. She had a real gift for it, he told her.

Russell's correspondence with Couturat. Louis Couturat was a French philosopher of mathematics who became a proponent of an international language. For several years, it appeared from the two dozen letters here, Russell had had an amiable and fruitful correspondence with him. What a welcome surprise it was to hear from Dr. Anne-Françoise Schmid of Lausanne, that in the Bibliothèque de la Ville de La Chaux-de-Fonds, also in Switzerland, there were on deposit there about 200 letters between Russell and Couturat. Practically all of Russell's have survived. They concern not only developments in logic and philosophy from 1898 to 1906, and Russell's writings on these subjects, but politics as well. Remember his saying in the *Autobiography* that he wrote imperialistic letters that he now regretted? They are included. The letters are

also all in French. It appears that Russell's great creative period in logic is, eventually, going to be exceptionally well-known.

Advisory Board. The Russell Archives now have an Advisory Board. It reports to McMaster's Academic Vice-President. The following are *ex officio* members: Chairman and Dean of Humanities (Alwyn Berland); the University Librarian (William Ready); Secretary and Russell Archivist (K. Blackwell). Members appointed for five-year terms are: Andrew Brink (English, McMaster); Louis Greenspan (Religion, McMaster); James Noxon (Philosophy, McMaster); Nicholas Griffin (Philosophy, McMaster); W.J.B. Owen (English, McMaster); Michael Radner (Philosophy, McMaster); Richard Rempel (History, McMaster); John G. Slater (Philosophy, University of Toronto); John Yolton (Philosophy, York University).

"Mathematicus" identified. In the *New York Evening Post* interview of 1916, reprinted in *Russell 15* as "Mathematicus Speaks", the interviewer is identified only as "H.W.H." A letter from this person has turned up in the Russell Archives. On 25 August 1916 a representative of the *Evening Post* wrote to Russell requesting an interview, and he signed himself Herbert W. Horwill (M.A. Lond and Oxon, late scholar of Wadham College). In addition to his dates (1864-1952), there is further information on Horwill in *Who Was Who* for the 1950s.

The Bertrand Russell Society. The November 1976 *Newsletter* of the Society is particularly interesting. Interested non-members can get a copy by writing to the Society at R.D. 1, Box 409, Coopersburg, PA 18036. The BR Society announces a call for papers to be presented at its meeting at the Eastern Division of the American Philosophical Association in Washington in December 1977. Papers may be on any aspect of Russell's philosophy. They should have a reading time of about one half an hour and should be submitted in triplicate, typed and double spaced with an abstract of not more than 150 words. The name of the author, with his address and the title of his paper, should be submitted on a separate page. The deadline for the papers is June 1, 1977 and the papers should be sent to Ed Hopkins, Chairman, Philosophers' Committee, The Bertrand Russell Society, 352 S. Drew Street, Baltimore, MD 21224. Those desiring their papers returned should enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.

Query. Russell said in his "Reply to Criticisms" in the Schilpp volume on him (p. 717) that "I doubt whether any other living philosopher has spent as much time as I have observing children learning to speak." Presumably this took place principally after the birth of his first child in 1921, i.e. the year in which *The Analysis of Mind* was published. Can any one tell me what difference Russell's observation of children learning to speak made to his philosophy of language?

The Press and *Unarmed Victory*. Alan Walker, managing editor of *The Canadian Magazine*, has donated to the Archives a signed copy of *Unarmed Victory* which Russell gave him. The occasion was an interview when Walker was in Britain for the Canadian Press. At the back of the book Russell noted the numbers of three pages--39, 41, and 69 in the Simon and Schuster edition. When Walker looked up these references he found that Russell had marked certain passages. Presumably these were for Walker's benefit, for all concern the sins of the Press.

Visitors and researchers. J.S. Curtis, John Yolton, James L. Hudson, Jane Synge, Tom Foster, John Butler, Chris Dean, T.W. Heyck, Louis Acero-Valderas, Douglas Lackey, Fred Seddon, Nicholas Griffin, Antony Alpers, Janucz Kuczynski were all recently in the Russell Archives, either visiting or researching.