

The editions of “German Social Democracy”

In what follows I present a standard technical bibliographical description of the editions of Russell's first published book. Do readers (and collectors) find this amount of information of interest or of use? If not, which categories of information seem superfluous? The point of it all is to distinguish different editions of Russell's works, and sometimes different editions--perhaps with changes in the text--appear very similar. Indeed, some bibliographical theorists (Fredson Bowers for one) recommend line by line collation of several copies before they are pronounced copies of the same edition. But think of the time it would take to describe all 70 of Russell's titles in their many editions in this way! And I plan to preface each technical description with a biographical account of how the book came to be written. My account of *An Essay on the Foundations of Geometry* appeared in *Russell 6*.

Russell's first book is called "A2" because it is in section A of the bibliography and section A comprises both books and pamphlets wholly by Russell. A1 denotes a pamphlet which may not exist. When Russell's lectures on German Social Democracy were about to start at the London School of Economics, a syllabus for them was distributed. The syllabus probably contained Russell's summaries of each lecture. We know there was a syllabus because a copy of it was distributed with the *Fabian News* of February 1896; and in a letter of 4 December 1895 Sidney Webb told Russell that his syllabus was first-rate. Probably the syllabus was very similar to the analytical table of contents in *German Social Democracy*.

The Bertrand Russell Archives

Kenneth Blackwell

A2

GERMAN SOCIAL DEMOCRACY

1896

A2a. First edition

Title-page: GERMAN SOCIAL DEMOCRACY / SIX LECTURES / BY / BERTRAND

RUSSELL, B.A. / FELLOW OF TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE / WITH AN APPEN-
DIX / ON SOCIAL DEMOCRACY AND THE WOMAN / QUESTION IN GERMANY / BY
ALYS RUSSELL, B.A. / LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO. / LONDON, NEW YORK, AND
BOMBAY / 1896

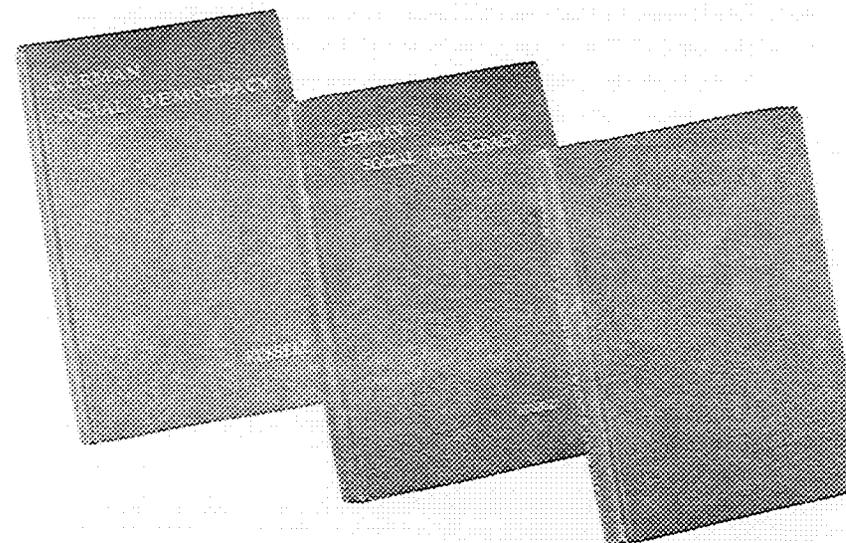
Size, collation & pagination: 18.4 x 12.1 cm. π⁸A-M⁸N⁶; 110 leaves.

(2), [i]-xiv, [1]-204, as follows: (1-2) blank [1] half-title [ii]
advertisement of the London School of Economics and Political Science
[iii] title-page [iv] advertisement of series Studies in Economics
and Political Science, edited by W.A.S. Hewins, this being no. 7 in
the series v-vi Preface vii-x List of the Principal Works Consulted
xi-xiv analytical table of Contents [1]-195 text [196] blank 197-
204 Index 204 after end of index: THE END / Printed by BALLANTYNE,
HANSON & CO. / *Edinburgh and London* [32 p. of publisher's advertise-
ments bound in at the end, headed: MESSRS. LONGMANS, GREEN, & CO.'S
/ CLASSIFIED CATALOGUE / OF / WORKS IN GENERAL LITERATURE.]

Paper & binding: Text on heavy off-white wove paper, all edges trimmed;
endpapers cream wove medium paper, not integral; advertisements bound
in as a separate gathering on thinner quality wove paper. Bound in
dark red, very fine grain cloth. Blind-stamped on upper front board:
STUDIES IN ECONOMICS AND / POLITICAL SCIENCE / GERMAN SOCIAL / DEMO-
CRACY and in lower right corner: RUSSELL. Stamped in gilt up spine:
GERMAN SOCIAL DEMOCRACY. RUSSELL. Blind-stamped on back board in
centre with publisher's monogram.

There are four states of the binding. The earliest is described
above, and the second is identical except it lacks the publisher's
advertisements. The third and fourth states are both bound in blue
cloth, but of different types. The third state has a fine, navy blue,
medium vertical rib cloth; that of the fourth is the same but coarser.
The stamping is also different. To compare the different letterings
used, see the Plate.

The red-bound state with advertisements is considered to be the
first because the red-bound British Library deposit copy is stamped
30 December 1896, and because the advertisements, which seem to be
dated September 1896 (p. 32, bottom), list a book (*The Red Deer* by
Cameron of Lochiel, *et al.*) published in December 1896, as being in
preparation. Moreover, no copies of the blue states are known with
the advertisements, or bearing such an early date; and the Bryn Mawr
College copy of the fourth state is dated 1908 and a Russell Archives
copy of the third state is dated 15 June 1909. These reasons do not
exclude the blue-bound states from being simultaneous with the red or
with each other; but for the former to have been so the binder must
have simultaneously run out of advertisements and red cloth, and



The first edition bindings of *German Social Democracy*: the spines are
(from top to bottom) the 4th, 1st or 2nd, and 3rd states; the front
boards are (from left to right) the 4th, 3rd, and 1st or 2nd states.

furthermore lost his blind stamp at the same time--a series of coincidences that appears improbable. Very likely the third (and the fourth) state resulted from the series "Studies in Economics and Political Science" being transferred to P.S. King & Son. *The English Catalogue of Books* for 1890-1897 gives Longmans, Green as the publisher of the series, but the next volumes, covering 1898-1900 and 1901-1905, give King as the publisher. In 1901 King published C.P. Sanger's *The Place of Compensation in Temperance Reform* in a binding identical to that of the third state. Sanger's book contains integral advertisements for the London School of Economics and Political Science and for the series of which it is No. 8 (*German Social Democracy* is now listed as No. 3). We can be confident that the finer blue binding is the earlier one because the owner of Sanger's book, A.K. Steel-Maitland, dated his signature 1903, and because the cheaper blue binding is less likely to have been applied when the series was still a growing one; indeed the quality and stamping of the third state of the binding seem designed to approximate those of the first and second states. Russell's book was still available from P.S. King and Son in 1910 (see *Philosophical Essays* [A8], p. [ii]).

Contents: Lecture I Marx and the Theoretic(al) Basis of Social Democracy¹
II Lassalle III History of German Socialism from the Death of Lassalle to the Passing of the Exceptional Law[,1878] IV [Social Democracy under] The Exceptional Law[, 1878-1890] V (The) Organisation, Agitation, Tactics, and Programme of Social Democracy Since the Fall of the Socialist Law IV The Present Position of Social Democracy Appendix (on) Social Democracy and the Woman Question in Germany by Alys Russell, B.A.

Publication: December 1896 at 3s. 6d., and distributed in the U.S. at \$1.00; number of copies unknown, but estimated by publisher to have been not more than 1,000.²

Copies examined: Russell Archives (1st and 3rd binding states); John G. Slater (1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th [two copies]); Peter Weinrich (1st; being a presentation copy--it is inscribed "To Miss Urquhart with the author's compliments"--it is additional evidence that the red-bound state with advertisements is the earliest); British Library deposit copy (1st); Princeton (1st); Library of Congress (1st); Duke (2nd;

¹There are minor variations between some lecture titles as they appear at the head of the lectures and as found in the table of contents. The version appearing at the lecture head is taken to be authoritative; additions in the table of contents are enclosed in square brackets, and omissions there are indicated by parentheses.

²Longmans, Green, and Co. to K. Blackwell, 11 June 1968.

it bears this anonymous inscription on the inside front cover: "Russell's first book; a brilliant historical analysis of Communism in Germany with an examination of its position and program at the time."); American University (2nd); Peabody Institute (2nd); Bryn Mawr (4th); University of Toronto (1st and 4th); Buffalo Public Library (1st).

Manuscripts: Two large "Mit Gott" notebooks (23 x 35 cm.) contain the first draft of the six lectures and notes on materials relevant to them (Russell Archives, files 210.006549 and 210.006550). The library of the London School of Economics has a scrapbook, kept and presented by Alys Russell in 1951, of the Russells' visit to Germany in November 1895. It was a research trip, and the scrapbook of newsclippings and letters also contains a diary of the Russells' fact-gathering activities (British Library of Political and Economic Science, R(Coll.) Misc. 296; 176 pages).

Translations: Russian (1905, abridged), Italian (1970). Slater's collection has both. It is not known whether Russell was aware of the Russian translation.

Reviews:

The Scotsman, 17 Dec. 1896, p. 6

The Times, 18 Dec. 1896, p. 8a

The Academy, 51 (30 Jan. 1897), 148

Westminster Review, 147 (March 1897), 345-6

by William Harbutt Dawson in *Economic Journal*, 7 (June 1897), 248-50

by Charles Zueblin, *Journal of Political Economy*, 5 (June 1897), 386-9

by H.W.M[acrosty], *Fabian News*, 7 (June 1897), 15-16

by [Valentine Chirol], *Edinburgh Review*, 186 (Oct. 1897), 505-42

by Helen Bosanquet, *International Journal of Ethics*, 8 (Oct. 1897), 130

A2b. Second edition (1965)

This edition has a new preface by Russell and lacks the appendix by Alys Russell. The index has been revised and reset.

Title-page: BERTRAND RUSSELL / [swelled rule] / GERMAN / SOCIAL DEMOCRACY / London / GEORGE ALLEN AND UNWIN LTD / RUSKIN HOUSE MUSEUM STREET

Size, collation & pagination: 19.6 x 12.9 cm. π⁶A-L⁸[M]⁴; 98 leaves. [i]-xii, [1]-184, as follows: [i] half-title [ii] list of books by Russell [iii] title [iv] FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1896 / by Longmans, Green and Co / THIS EDITION FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1965 / by George Allen & Unwin Ltd / [Berne Convention notice] / This edition © George Allen & Unwin Ltd, 1965 / PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN / in 11 pt. Bell type / BY UNWIN BROTHERS LIMITED / WOKING AND LONDON [v] PREFACE TO THE 1965

EDITION [vi] blank vii-viii PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION ix-xii
analytical table of contents [1]-171 text [172] blank [173]-176
LIST OF THE PRINCIPAL WORKS CONSULTED 177-184 index.

Paper & binding: Text on heavy white wove paper, endpapers similar;
all edges trimmed, top edge stained navy blue. Bound in slightly
glazed navy blue cloth, medium grain. Stamped in gilt across
spine: GERMAN / SOCIAL / DEMOCRACY / [two elliptical rules conti-
guous at ends] / BERTRAND / RUSSELL / GEORGE / ALLEN / AND / UNWIN .
Light blue dust jacket printed in navy blue, the front announcing
German Social Democracy as "A New Edition of his First Book".

Publication: 15 April 1965 at £1.1.0; number of copies, 2,500.

Copies examined: Russell Archives (301004); John G. Slater.

Notes: The first reprinting of *German Social Democracy*, 69 years after
original publication, was occasioned by Dr. Marcus Bierich, who
wished to translate it into German. Russell told Sir Stanley Unwin
of Bierich's wish on 17 May 1964. Sir Stanley replied that the book
ought to be reprinted in English "because we feel that anything of
yours is of interest." Russell agreed to the proposal, adding that
"it would require a little prefatory note from me pointing out that
when I wrote it I was not a socialist. I became one in 1914." It
was not known to whom the rights belonged, but Longmans, Green dis-
claimed any rights as the book had been out of print with them so
long. To cut costs in the reprinting (for which Russell's only copy
was used), Sir Stanley asked Russell if there was "any need to in-
clude the appendix on the 'woman' question in Germany". Russell re-
plied there was not, and further agreed to have the List of the
Principal Works Consulted moved to the end of the book; but he went
on to say, "On re-reading the book, I have come to the conclusion
that no preface is needed." Sir Stanley then made determined pleas
for both a preface and a blurb for the jacket. Russell acceded to the
first plea and wrote the preface on 29 July 1964 (of which the ori-
ginal, signed typescript is in the Russell Archives). He was sent an
advance copy of the book on 19 January 1965.

A2c. Second edition, American issue (1965)

The preliminary pages are different from those of the English
issue, chiefly in the loss of the analytical table of contents.

Title-page: BERTRAND RUSSELL / [swelled rule] / GERMAN / SOCIAL
DEMOCRACY / SIMON AND SCHUSTER / NEW YORK

Size, collation & pagination: 20.2 x 12.7 cm. [1-6]¹⁶; 96 leaves.

[i]-[viii], [1]-184, as follows: [i] publisher's monogram [ii]
blank [iii] title [iv] ALL RIGHTS RESERVED / INCLUDING THE RIGHT

(continued on p. 60)