Bibliographies/archival inventories

Rupert Crawshay-Williams's bequest

by Carl Spadoni

I. A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Rupert Crawshay-Williams was born in London in 1908, a great-grandson of T. H. Huxley and the son of Leslie Crawshay-Williams. He was educated at Repton School and Queen's College, Oxford. He was an outspoken humanist, a founding-member of the Classification Society and an honorary associate of the Rationalist Press Association. He worked with Gramophone Records and High-Fidelity Reproduction until 1939, and was a regular reviewer of *Gramophone Records*. In 1932 he married Elizabeth Joyce Violet Powell. She was his devoted companion for forty-five years and the author of a book on cookery.

In 1942, the Crawshay-Williamses moved to the Portmeirion Estate in North Wales where for the duration of the war Rupert taught mathematics, French and English at a temporary preparatory school located in Deudraeth Castle on the Estate. The creator of Portmeirion, Clough Williams-Ellis, had bought the Estate in 1925 and had converted the pseudo-baronial Castle into a hotel. At the beginning of the war, however, the Castle was taken over by the Ministry of Education. Bertrand Russell had written part of Freedom and Organization, 1814–1914 in the Victorian Gothic Library of the Castle annex in 1933–34, and it was at Portmeirion after the war when Russell and his third wife, the former Patricia Spence, returned to England from America, that the Crawshay-Williamses first met the Russells. Crawshay-Williams and his wife had stayed on at Castle Yard, their ivy-covered cottage so named because originally it was to be the Castle's stable-yard.

The story of Russell's relationship with the Crawshay-Williamses has been affectionately recorded in Rupert's Russell Remembered, and there is no need to recount its details. Suffice it to say that despite their age

difference of nearly forty years, a close friendship developed. Rupert and Elizabeth offered counsel and comfort to Russell when his third marriage broke up in 1949. They found two houses for him to live in—the first, in the mid-forties, near Ffestiniog, a small village a few miles inland from Portmeirion, and the second, a decade later, a Regency house, Plas Penrhyn, on the peninsula, five minutes' walk from Castle Yard. Christmas was often spent in each other's company. Until Russell married Edith Finch, Crawshay-Williams was his literary executor, and he was often entrusted with Russell's manuscripts. As late as August 1967, for example, the Crawshay-Williamses were asked to read the typescript of the third volume of the Autobiography.

It was through the office of Crawshay-Williams's uncle, Sir Laurence Collier, the British Ambassador at Oslo, that Russell was invited to give a series of lectures in Norway in 1948. It was on that trip, of course, that Russell was nearly drowned at Trondheim when his sea-plane was blown over on landing. The same uncle compensated for this near-tragedy by securing Russell the o.m. Russell probably never suspected the connection between his receiving the O.M. and Sir Laurence's contacts, even though the Crawshay-Wiliamses gave an o.m. party when the award was announced. It was this kind of generosity that the Crawshay-Williamses extended to Russell. This is not to suggest that the generosity was one-sided, quite the contrary. Yet, in Russell's last decade, when his time was consumed with political activity and his health was failing, they stood by him even when their friendship had been strained by an overprotective and inconsiderate secretary. Crawshay-Williams's memoir of Russell is candid in its estimate of Russell's character, but nevertheless it was toned down in deference to Lady Russell's wish that her husband's reputation should not be compromised.

Although Crawshay-Williams was not trained in philosophy, his critical capacity flourished under Russell's tutelage and encouragement. Besides numerous articles and his memoir of Russell, he wrote two books of a philosophical nature. His good friend, J. S. L. Gilmour, describes his views "as uncompromisingly relativist and anti-absolute; statements should be regarded as 'true' only in a particular, clearly defined context, and not in some imaginary universal context" (The Times, 18 June 1977, p. 16). In The Comfort of Unreason, which Russell reviewed, Crawshay-Williams examined the motives of philosophers in constructing metaphysical systems. His analysis claimed that philosophers attempted to deceive their readers by the use of a "unifying formula": evolution as used by Herbert Spencer, the Absolute as used by Hegel, dialectical materialism as used by Marx, etc. Both Russell and Crawshay-Williams attended meetings of the Metalogical Society, a small group of philosophers and scientists founded by A. J. Ayer in 1949. The Society lasted some three to four years and met approximately once a month in London. It was there that Crawshay-Williams met a number of professional philosophers, and Russell read his famous controversial essay, "The Cult of 'Common Usage'", in 1952. At the time of his death, Crawshay-Williams had virtually completed another book entitled The Directive Function of Language.

The Crawshay-Williamses died together on 12 June 1977. When Elizabeth became crippled with an incurable paralysis, Rupert decided that he could not go on living without her. The couple swallowed sleeping pills and were found in their bed in each other's arms. Crawshay-Williams's decision of suicide was entirely consistent with his beliefs. A provision of his will stipulated that all his papers relating to Russell were to be sent to the Russell Archives.

II. CHECKLIST OF PUBLICATIONS BY R. CRAWSHAY-WILLIAMS

The following is a checklist of Crawshay-Williams's published writings. It excludes the reviews which he wrote on a regular basis for Gramophone Records in the 1930s.

"The Mental Comforts of Unifying Formulae", Polemic, [no. 1] ([Nov.? 1945]): 57-64. Reprinted with revisions in The Comforts of Unreason (1947), pp. 88–98.

"The Obstinate Universal", Polemic, no. 2 (Jan. 1946): 14-21.

"Discussion" [reply to O. S. Wauchope's "The Philosophical Aspect of Atomic Energy"], Polemic, no. 6 (Nov.-Dec. 1946): 56-66.

The Comforts of Unreason: A Study of the Motives behind Irrational Thought (London: Kegan Paul, Trench & Co., 1947), viii + 206 pp.; (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1970), reprint of the 1947 ed.

"Mental and Verbal Confusions", Free Mind, 2 (Spring 1948): 3-6.

"Verbal Rationalisation: I. Emotive and Informative Language", Free Mind, 2 (Autumn 1948): 8-12.

Review of Russell's Human Knowledge: Its Scope and Limits, The Observer, 13 Oct. 1948, p. 3.

Clear Thinking (Current Affairs no. 62. London: Bureau of Current Affairs, 1948), 16 pp.

"True Truth; or the Higher the Deeper", The Rationalist Annual, 1948,

¹ For a discussion of Crawshay-Williams's philosophy, see J.S.L. Gilmour, "Has Philosophy a Future?", The Rationalist Annual, 1964, pp. 31-40.

- pp. 21-30.
- "Profile—Bertrand Russell", *The Observer*, 30 Jan. 1949, p. 7. Reprinted in *Russell*, n.s. 3 (Summer 1983): 25-8.
- "Verbal Rationalisation: II. The Belief in True Meaning", Free Mind, 2 (Feb. 1949): 8-13.
- "Equivocal Confirmation", Analysis, 11 (March 1951): 73-9.
- Methods and Criteria of Reasoning: An Inquiry into the Structure of Controversy (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1957), viii + 296 pp. + 8pp. adverts.; (New York: Humanities Press, 1957), 206 pp.
- "The Double Criterion", Proceedings of the Linnean Society of London, 174th Session, Pt. 2 (Sept. 1961): 110-15.
- Et al. "Fund of Admiration", The Cambrian News, 9 Nov. 1962, p. 3.
- "The Evolutionary Survival Value of Religion", *The Rationalist Annual*, 1963, pp. 51-88.
- "Question of Method", The Times Literary Supplement, no. 3, 281 (14 Jan. 1965): 32.
- "The Double Criterion of Empirical Judgment", in Barbara Kyle, ed., Focus on Information & Communication (London: ASLIB, 1965), pp. 1-26.
- "Russell's Autobiography" [review of Vol. 1 of Russell's Autobiography], Humanist, 82 (May 1967): 134-47.
- Letter, I Aug. 1953, in *The Autobiography of Bertrand Russell*, Vol. 3: 1944-1967 (London: George Allen and Unwin, 1968), pp. 91-2.
- "Lord Russell Still on the Threshold of Life" [review of Vol. 2 of Russell's Autobiography], Humanist, 83 (July 1968): 198-9.
- "Two Intellectual Temperaments", Question, 1 (Feb. 1968): 17-27.
- Russell Remembered (London: Oxford University Press, 1970), [x] + 163 pp. Translations: Il mio amico Bertrand, trans. Bruno Oddera (Milano: Longanesi, 1971), 257 pp.; and Begegnung mit Bertrand Russell, trans. von Günther Memmert (Zürich: Europaverlag, 1974), 170 pp.
- Letter concerning the Gas Board, *The Times*, 18 Aug. 1973, p. 13. "Ends and Means in an Age of Commitment", *Question*, 8 (Sept. 1974): 79-88.

III. THE PAPERS

The remainder of this article is devoted to describing the Crawshay-Williams bequest. The material, measuring half a linear foot, is located in the Russell Archives under Recent Acquisitions 501, i-xiii. In some sections, the descriptions are prefaced by short explanations. The abbreviations "RCW" and "ECW" have been used for Rupert Crawshay-Williams and Elizabeth Crawshay Williams, respectively.

(a) Russell manuscripts, typescripts and proofs

Autobiography. Ms. 3 leaves. Enclosed with Russell's 1. to RCW, 21 Sept. 1949 (see Russell Remembered, p. 45n.1).

[Broadcast review of] The Comforts of Unreason. Ms. Described in Russell, nos. 37-40.

What Neutrals Can Do to Save the World. Galley Proofs. Described in Russell, nos. 37-40.

Perception. Tscc. Described in Russell, nos. 37-40.

Logic and Ontology. Tscc. Described in Russell, nos. 37-40.

Maxims That Won't Quite Do. Ts. 1 leaf. Maxims 4 and 5 of "Newly Discovered Maxims of the Rochefoucauld" in Fact and Fiction (London: George Allen & Unwin, 1961), pp. 184-5.

(b) Crawshay-Williams's journal and his other writings on Russell

According to Russell Remembered (p. 35), soon after his first encounter with Russell Crawshay-Williams began to make a "diary or journal entries of incidents" relating to Russell "which seemed amusing or interesting". Written in a partly Boswellian style, the entries not only discuss Crawshay-Williams and his wife's personal interaction with the Russells, but they also comment on aspects of Russell's philosophy and his participation in political campaigns. It was on the basis of this journal that Russell Remembered was written.

The extant portions of the journal consist of leaves typed in red or black, usually unnumbered but dated, and heavily corrected and revised in Crawshay-Williams's hand. A number of entries are also written on smaller note paper and cards. Although the earliest extracts from the journal in *Russell Remembered* date from the 1947-50 period, the earliest surviving entry is May 1956. The last entry is dated 2 July 1973.

The following is a list of Crawshay-Williams's writings on Russell in manuscript or typescript, chronologically arranged.

The Conquest of Happiness. Notes. n.d. Ms. 6 leaves. Attached to an anonymous 1930 review from The Times Literary Supplement of Russell's The Conquest of Happiness and Floyd Dell's Love in the Machine Age.

Conservative Radical Rating Scale. 1946. Ms. 3 index cards $(5 \times 8'')$. See Russell Remembered, p. 20.

Notes on Pragmatism and Objective Truth. c.1947. Ts. and ms. 5 index cards $(5 \times 8'')$. The cards are foliated 1 to 5 but are also paginated 1 to 9

During The present factoring The importance of The struly of Canguage as a help of more a sound pletosophy has come to difficult of technifal; Theres perhaps the war important are easy or ever pleasant, except to Those who find the viewische assance upof lais prejudices disappeacele. Language, according to Voltain, was given to concerd out Thoughts . from openews as wead as their, by might have added. Mr. Chambley williams deals, in a large part of his book, with Di capat of language. His teatment is full of amusing wesdom, expressed in an easy 4 persuasive manner which weres reasonableness seem attachive. He suggest various painles tests & which we can diagnose our capes without under disconfiture. "How many times " he asks, "during (say) The part 3 months can you, my saades, kenember having had an argument or discussion in white procures unesaronade? what, you cannot semantice a single one? Aul jot wow I come to think it it I count think I am recession when I have been corresponder, either Can none of us do so . who Then

This leaf, foliated 1a, was originally the first leaf of Russell's broadcast review of Crawshay-Williams's The Comforts of Unreason (1947). Russell rewrote the first paragraph and incorporated part of the original first leaf in his review.

were all those people we requesting

(verso of the last card unpaginated). The ts. runs from 1 to 7 (i.e. recto of fol. 4) with the remaining pages in RCW's hand.

Profile Bertrand Russell. [1948-49]. Tscc. with revisions in RCW's hand. 5 leaves. Attached to a newsclipping of the article published in The Observer.

[Journal] 1956-1973. Ts. 201 leaves of different size, heavily revised, some leaves wholly in RCW's hand.

[Review of first volume of] Russell's Autobiography. [1967]. Tscc. 2 copies revised in RCW's hand. 10 leaves.

[Review of second volume of Russell's Autobiography]. [1968]. Tscc. with revisions in RCW's hand. 10 leaves foliated continously to fol. 9 with two leaves foliated "4".

Cahp [sic] I Discard re Trotter. [c.1970]. 3 leaves foliated 9 to 11. Revised in Russell Remembered, pp. 4-5.

Chapter II Brief Biography to Date. [c.1970]. Tscc. 15 leaves. On the preliminary leaf RCW has written "All Cut-except for pages 15-17 which are append to Chapter I".

Original Summary Russell Remembered. [c.1970]. Ts. 3 leaves with revisions in RCW's hand.

Final summary of Contents. [c.1970]. Ts. 9 leaves with revisions in RCW's hand.

[Questions concerning] Bertie's Memornadum [sic]. [c.1970]. Ts. 4 leaves with revisions in RCW's hand.

(c) "What I Believe"

In May 1947, Russell was one of the three free-thinking speakers on the controversial BBC series, "What I Believe". Condemnatory reaction from the public was both strong and immediate. Russell enclosed a sampling of public correspondence in his letter to Rupert Crawshay-Williams of 30 May 1947 in which he remarked (see Russell Remembered, pp. 53-4):

I think it possible that the enclosed batch of letters may interest you as they give a picture of average sentiment in England at the present time. The one that gave me the most pleasure was the one saying that Satan inspired my talk.

All letters listed are single letters, unless otherwise specified, written to Russell, and dated 1947. The letters are from:

Anonymous (2 ls.), W. Bowman, D. Milner Brown, Ernest Edward Carter, W. M. Spencer Edge, Sidney Fagan, D. V. Gostick, P. Griffith,

To illustrate how Bertie could be amused

One day, over tea, Bertie had been telling us about his last journey by train to London, when, as the train left Penrhyn station, he had been recognised by an Ancient Marginer of a fellow passenger, and talked at non- stop until he was almost fainting with boredom, and considering whether or not to pull

the communication cord.

Builth
I have an idea' said, 'The next time this happens you say think they amp am film health for him.

at once 'Well no, I am not Bertrand Russell, but I do admire him more than anyone in the world... I kkinkxhexiexkhexmest

www.derfukxxxxxx I can talk about him all the way to London ...

I think he is the most wonderful.....

Bertie began to laugh. Sitting up straight as though in a railway carrage, he began in a loud platform voice. 'To begin with Bertrand Russell is FAR the eleverest man in the world, No one can touch him, he is hardworking, he is abstanious..... We all began to contribute:

- 'I flatter myself, Sir, that I do one good deed a day, but BERTRAND RUSSELL DOES TEN. '
- 'I am not mean performer myself in matters of manual dexterity. but BERTRAND RUSSELL COULD PICK THE LOCK ON THE CROWN JEWELS VITH A HAIRPIN'
- 'I make a good sup of tea if I say so myself but OH YOU SHOULD TASTE BERTRAND RUSSELLS
- 'As you can see, my friend, I have a good head of hair, but compared to BERTRAND RUSSELL, I am bald, HE HAS 200 HAIRS TO EVERY ONE OF MINE.8

The above leaf is representative of the journal Crawshay-Williams kept. It is found in revised form in Russell Remembered, pp. 37-8.

Harold Hallworth, A. Hancock, A. Hearman, Arthur Johnson, B. Marshall, Florence A. Potto and Ivy Herbert, Annie D. Riley, G. A. Robison, W. H. Sanders, G. I. Silverlock, H. Tattersall, M. L. Taylor, E. F. Sumner Ward.

(d) Other Russell correspondence

The remainder of the letters addressed to Russell in Crawshay-Williams's papers are listed here. They come under his general heading of "crank mail". Some of them are described and quoted in Russell Remembered, p. 54.

Anonymous. 5 ls., 1956-9 Batty, Violet. l., 1957 Carmel, G. O. l., 1958 Davies, William J. l., 1945 Green, A. W. 1., 1960 Morley, Montague R. 2 ls., 1960 Nath, Bhola. 1., 1958 Smelters, Gregory S. 1., 1949 Speedie, Gordon. l., 1958 Taylor, Rev. R. Form 1., 1958 Winchester, Bapsy Marchioness. 2 form ls., 1958.

The only "non-crank" letters in this category are those written by Russell in 1956 concerning the British Government's policy towards Egypt:

Gaitskell, Hugh. l. Manchester Guardian. 1. and telegram

(e) Crawshay-Williams's correspondence

Chapman, Guy. 1. from RCW, 1948

Clark, Ronald W. 3 ls. to RCW, 1974, encl. tscc. of 3 leaves, paginated 780-2, of The Life of Bertrand Russell re the Cuban Missile Crisis; 2 ls. from RCW, 1974

Collier, Sir Laurence. 1. to RCW, 1948; 3 ls. from RCW, 1948

Continuum 1 Ltd. (Barry Feinberg). 2 ls. to RCW, 1968, encl. photocopy of 1. from RCW to Russell, 1953

Farley, Christopher. 2 ls. to RCW, 1970; l. from RCW to Carol?, 1970, encl. notes concerning revisions of Russell Remembered

Fish [now Urch], Phyllis. 1. to ECW and RCW, 1949; 1. to ECW, 1950 Heenan, Cardinal. 1. from Michael Burn, 1972; 1. to Burn, 1972; (unsent?) l. to The Sunday Times from RCW, 1972, re Cardinal Heenan's statement in The Sunday Times about Russell's religious views; newsclippings from The Sunday Times

Lunik?, Mary. l. to RCW, 1970

Malleson, Lady Constance. 15 ls. to ECW, 1948-9, encl. photos of herself and her home in Sweden and an undated note re a review of Human Knowledge; l. from [ECW], [1949]

Pears, David. 1. to RCW, 1966

Russell, Bertrand. 19 ls. and a telegram to RCW, 1947-57; 20 ls. to ECW, 1947-54; 5 ls. to ECW and RCW, 1950-51. Encl.: note added by Patricia Russell in Russell's 1. to RCW of [1948-49]; notes added by Edith Russell in Russell's ls. to RCW of 19 March 1953 and 26 May 1956; RCW's review of *Human Knowledge*; newsclippings re Russell's Australian lecture tour; BBC (T. S. Gregory) to Russell, 1952, with newsclipping: Deudraeth Rural District Council (L. Ellis) to Russell, 1956. 3 ls. from RCW, 1950-66, enclosing l. to RCW from Coward, Chance & Co. (C. B. Drover), 1950

Russell, Edith, Countess. 5 ls. to RCW, 1958-70; 20 ls. to ECW, 1952-70; 4 ls. and p.c. to ECW and RCW, 1954-67, enclosing newsclipping advertising sale of cottage; l. from RCW, 1970; l. from RCW to Edith and Bertrand, 1962

Russell, John Conrad, 4th Earl. 2 ls. to RCW, n.d.

Russell (née Spence), Patricia. l. from Bertrand Russell, 1948; 4 ls. to RCW, 1947-49; 9 ls. to ECW, 1945-49; 2 ls. to ECW and RCW, 1945-[49]; l. to H. T. Pritchard, 1950; l. from Pritchard, 1950. Encl.: 1. from Patricia to Bertrand in RCW's hand, 1950

Salmon, Steven C. l. to RCW, 1975

Strachey, John. 1. to RCW, 1960, enclosing Strachey's pamphet, The Pursuit of Peace and a newsclipping reviewing the pamphlet

Skynner, Robin. 3 ls. to RCW, 1949

Wyatt, Woodrow. 1. to RCW, 1959, enclosing preliminary list of Wyatt's questions used for interview, Bertrand Russell Speaks His Mind.

(f) Cafe Royal

On the occasion of Russell's ninetieth birthday, A. J. Ayer and Crawshay-Williams arranged a dinner in his honour at the Café Royal in London. The celebration was marked by tributes from Aver and Julian Huxley and E. M. Forster's reminiscences of the early Cambridge years. The exchange of letters itemized here concerns the planning of the banquet.

Aver, A. J. 7 ls. to RCW, 1962; 4 ls. from RCW, 1962. Encl.: dinner invitation card, newsclipping re the dinner, and a provisional list of guests drawn up by Ayer and Edith Russell Blackett, Patrick, 1st Baron. 1. from RCW, 1962 Huxley, Julian. 1. to RCW, 1962; 1. from RCW, 1962

(g) Bertrand Russell Memorial Meeting

In testimony to Russell's achievement, a memorial meeting sponsored by The Rationalist Press Association and chaired by Crawshay-Williams was held at Central Hall, Westminster, on 8 June 1970. Some twenty-five organizations were represented, and approximately 1,000 people attended. The programme was highlighted by celebrity speakers and ended with a recording of Russell reading "How to Grow Old". The speeches were published under the title, "Russell Remembered", New Humanist, 88 (Dec. 1972): 318-26. The file containing letters all dated 1970 relates to the meeting.

Farley, Christopher. 1. from RCW Oppenheim-Errera, Gabrielle. 1. to RCW

The Rationalist Press Association Ltd. (C. J. G. Macy). 1. from Edith Russell; 4 ls. and a receipt to RCW; 2 ls. from Kevin Holland; 1. to Holland

RCW's notes and other anonymous notes re the removal of Russell's last essay (on the Middle East) from the tribute booklet; a copy of A Meeting in Honour of Bertrand Russell 1972-1970; newsclippings.

(h) Other items

Included in this section are photographs, form letters, leaflets, pamphlets and offprints written by Russell, long reviews of some of his books, and other assorted material.

Photographs: 10 photographs with some negatives of Portmeirion: Russell with the Earl of Huntington; Russell, Harold Nicolson and Lord Samuel (BBC General Overseas Service, London Forum); scowling portrait of Russell at disarmament demonstration; 2 photos of Russell and Edith with others wearing safety helmets (see Russell Remembered, p. 121); Russell and his grandchildren (Anne, Sara and Lucy); Russell and Edith with others at Portmadoc; 3 photos of Russell in a dark red

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Leaflets, pamphlets and offprints: To the Electors of the Wimbledon Division of Surrey; Act or Perish; A Call to Action; Win We Must; The Faith of a Rationalist; "Voltaire's Influence on Me"; "What is Mind?"; The Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation: Its Aim and Its Work.

Reviews: Norman Malcolm on *Human Knowledge*; Yorrick Smythies on *History of Western Philosophy*.

Other assorted material: two issues of *Black Dwarf* containing Russell's "Private Memorandum Concerning Ralph Schoenman"; advertisement for Nonesuch Records; advertisement for *The Spokesman*; poster of musical tribute on Russell's ninetieth birthday, Royal Festival Hall; programme of Bertrand Russell Centenary Year Celebrations, University of Nottingham Adult Education Centre; advertisement for The Bertrand Russell Centenary Art Exhibition and Sale of Works; form 1., 1968, from Centre for Socialist Action (Tony Topham *et al.*); form 1., 1968, from *The London Bulletin* (Russell D. Stetler) with mimeographed article, "Genocide: The Copenhagen Judgement of the Russell Tribunal".

(i) Newsclippings, 1947-75

The newsclippings (I large file) are on a variety of topics—reviews of Russell's books, Russell's political activities, etc.