Addenda to the checklist of theses and dissertations on Bertrand Russell

by Kenneth Blackwell

Further to the list by Carl Spadoni published here three years ago (Winter 1984-85), we wish to add the following 39 titles for a total of 247 graduate works in Russell studies. "RA" indicates that a copy of the work is held in the Russell Archives. It should be noted that our holdings of all Russell theses are much more complete than they were in 1984. See the appendix for a list of the additions to the holdings of the first list. Mark Haslett, McMaster's Acquisitions Librarian, has worked with Sheila Turcon to obtain these copies. We are especially grateful to authors who have donated copies to the collection.

Readers may expect a further supplement to Spadoni's list. There is a bibliography of national theses bibliographies in Michael M. Reynolds' Guide to Theses and Dissertations (Phoenix, Arizona: Oryx Press, 1985), covering Algeria to Yugoslavia. Eventually the major national bibliographies will be searched (volunteers are needed) and the additional Russell theses listed here.

Readers might be interested in theses with more direct relationships with Russell himself. They fall into five classes. (a) He wrote only one thesis himself (though he toyed with the idea writing a second on economics). (b) He is not known to have supervised or been the advisor for any thesis. (c) He is known to have been on the examining committee for only three: C.D. Broad's fellowship dissertation (Cambridge, 1912), published as Perception, Physics and Reality (1914); Rupert Brooke's fellowship dissertation (Cambridge, 1912), published as John Webster and the Elizabethan Drama; and Ludwig Wittgenstein's Ph.D. dissertation, Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus (Cambridge University, 1929). Surely (b) is not null, and (c) must have more than three members for someone who spent more than a few years in academia. The fourth class (d) concerns the theses about himself or his ideas that he read. This class is more numerous. He read Aiken, Fritz (Ph.D.), Laric (an article based on his M.A. thesis), McCarthy, Quine (in revised form as System of Logistic), and Wiener. (e) As for other theses that Russell read, I know of only four. There are Jean Nicod's two theses, La Probleme logique de l'induction (1923) and La Geometrie dans le monde sensible (1924). Russell prefaced both—the first in 1961, the second back in 1924. (Nicod's theses are not to be found in Catalogue des theses et ecrits academiques of France for 1924. He died between having them printed and defending them at the Sorbonne.) There is Stanley V. Keeling's "La Nature de l'experience chez Kant et chez Bradley" (Universite de Monpellier, 1925). He also read (and admired) John Conrad Russell's B.A. thesis, "An Analysis of the Principal Occasions and Causes of Failure of Democracy" (Harvard, 1943; RA). The evidence for (d) and (e) is in the correspondence here, and the notes Russell sometimes made.

The highly academic questions discussed above have this justification: the answers extend our knowledge of what Russell read, and therefore of the possible influences upon his mind.

The Bertrand Russell Archives

Addenda to the Checklist

Abbott, Janet Ross. "British Reactions and Attitudes to the Cuban Crisis, 1962". M.A. University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, 1969. RA.

Anner, Gretchen. "Bertrand Russell's Theory of Judgment as Based on His Theory of Knowledge by Acquaintance and Knowledge by Description". M.A. University of Toronto, 1966. RA.


Although it may be that these entries were omitted because no copies of the theses are available (certainly the case with those of the authors of Principia Mathematica).

Russell was appointed Wittgenstein's supervisor in June 1912, but although he worked on a thesis Wittgenstein didn't submit one and consequently wasn't given a B.A. See Brian McGuinness, Wittgenstein: a Life; Young Ludwig 1889-1921 (London: Duckworth, 1988), pp. 96–7, 199–102.

Addenda to the checklist of theses

Bierich, M. “Freges Lehre von dem Sinn und der Bedeutung der Urteile und Russells Kritik an dieser Lehre”. PH.D. Hamburg University, 1951. RA.


Bowne, Gwendolyn Duell. “The Development of the College of Logic from 1880 to 1908”. PH.D. Ohio State University, 1963. RA.


Hager, Paul John. “ Continuity and Change in the Development of Russell’s Philosophy”. PH.D. University of Sydney, 1986. RA.


Holmgren, Christine Lynn. “Bertrand Russell and the Paradoxes”. M.A. California State University, Long Beach, 1982. RA.


.. “A Discussion of the Problem of Perception, as based upon Russell’s

Human Knowledge”, HON. THESIS. George Washington University, N.D. RA.


Rodriguez Consuegra, Francisco. “El método en la filosofía de Bertrand Russell; un estudio sobre los orígenes de la filosofía analítica a través de la obra de Russell, sus manuscritos inéditos y los autores que más le influenciaron”. PH.D. Universidad de Barcelona, 1988. RA.


Stiers, Frank Clayton. “Democratic Control of Foreign Policy: the History of a Political Demand in Britain before and during World War I”. PH.D. Washington University, St. Louis, 1971. RES. COLL. [Discusses BR’s involvement in the UDC.]


Tomatini Bassols, Alejandro. “A Comparative Study of Russell’s and Wittgenstein’s Logical Atomism”. M.LITT. Oxford University, 1984. RA.

APPENDIX

Adcock       Miller
Ahmed        Morrison
Bachmann     Mosmann
Barlingay    Myers, O.F.
Bowen        Neidorf
Clack        Nesor
Cobitz       Olds
Copi         Padia
Dako         Pepper
Dau          Quine
Dennison     Rabenstein
Eastman (M.A.) Ray, R.K.
Feidi        Ring
Fitzgerald    Robinson
Foster       Salema
Fritz (M.A.)  Scheer
Gour         Schlagel
Hartt        Shealy
Iglesias-Rozas Sherwood
Johnsen      Sibley
Johnson      Skulskey
Jolley       Steece
Kelleher     Thayer
Khan         Thomson
Kim          Thorsell
Leo          Tomasini (B.A.)
Lockridge    Tomasini (Ph.D.)
Long         Torrence
Lowe         Washio
Lu           Weiss
Lugton       Weitz
Martin       Wiener
Mattai       Will
McKeever     Woodman
Melton