

Bertrand Russell's logical manuscripts: an apprehensive brief

by I. Grattan-Guinness

[EDITORS' NOTE: THE paper given under this title was published in *History and Philosophy of Logic*, 6 (1985): 53–74. It is a provisional survey of the extent and content of a large quantity of material on mathematical logic and the foundations of mathematics. Some indications are given of the manuscripts' historical significance, and a discussion is added as to the possible modes of publication in the edition of Russell's *Collected Papers*.

Two quoted comments on Russell's "predicament" begin the paper:

One might yet be able to add, that the most productive mathematicians do not in general have much inclination to bother with such philosophical speculations over the first foundations of their sciences, just as little as the active musician has the need to account to himself about what the musical logic, which his ear teaches him, really touches on.... I am likewise convinced that the mathematician, who gives the work under discussion a thorough study, will have nothing to regret and will make a variety of uses of the critical arguments of the author, in any case much more use and inspiration than from the same author's *Essay on the foundations of geometry*. (F. Engel on Russell's *The Principles of Mathematics*)

I may say that I am immensely impressed by it, but all the same believe it to be fundamentally wrong. (G.F. Stout on Russell's *The Principles of Mathematics*)

The reader is referred to I. Grattan-Guinness's paper itself for the rest of the story.]