Recent acquisitions: Russell’s correspondence in the Dora Russell papers

by Sheila Turcon

This portion of the purchase1 from the Dora Russell Estate in August 1987 totals 636 items. The majority of the documents date from the 1920s and remained in the possession of Dora Winifrid Black Russell (1894–1985), Russell’s second wife, after their separation in 1932. Dora Russell retained ownership of their Cornish home, Carn Voel, until her death, and it was there that the correspondence was discovered.2 The letters have been classified and listed here according to the Russell Archives’ scheme for Archives I and II; their physical arrangement is by alphabetical order under Rec. Acq. 1,027. They occupy .26 m of shelf space.

All letters are incoming to Bertrand Russell, unless otherwise indicated. See the following article for a description of the manuscripts that form part of this acquisition. For an account of the division of Dora Russell’s papers between McMaster and the International Institute for Social History, Amsterdam, see Katharine Tait, “Interim Report on the Beacon Hill School Materials”, Russell, n.s. 7 (1987): 137–40.

The Bertrand Russell Archives
McMaster University Library

1 Funded by SSHRCC’s Support to Specialized Collections programme in 1987.
2 She drew on some of the correspondence listed here in her three-volume autobiography, The Tamarisk Tree (London: Virago, 1977–85).
*410 Publishing Correspondence

Atlantic Literary Agency (Walter G. Fuller). 4 ls. 1923.
Beseda, Berlin (Maxim Gorky). 1 l. 1923.
Brandt & Kirkpatrick (Carl Brandt). 1 l. 1923. (U.S. literary agent.)
The Cambridge Review (editor). 1 l. 1914. Requests review of Broad's
Perception, Physics and Reality. Found between pp. 254 and 255 of
Russell's copy of same.
Care, Ernest A. 1 l. 1922.
The Central Union of Chinese Students in Great Britain and Ireland
(Robert K.S. Lim). 2 ls. 1923. (Publisher of The Chinese Student.)
Christophers (Bertram Christian). 1 l. 1923.
The Daily Herald (W.J. Furner). 1 l. 1922.
The Dial (Gilbert Seldes). 41s. N.d. (but 1923).
The English Review (Austin Harrison). 1 l. 1923.
6 ls. and 1 telegram. 1922–23.
Harper & Brothers (Cass Canfield). 1 l. 1927.
Hearst's International. 1 l. 1923. Payment for "How the Chinese Are
Happy". Apparently not published until its appearance as "Eastern and
Western Ideals of Happiness" in Sceptical Essays (1928).
Heinemann, Dora. 1 l. 1923.
Hether, Margarete. 2 ls. (1 l. to "Frau Russell"). 1922–23.
International Association for Labour Legislation (Stephen Bauer). 1 l. 1923.
(Publisher of L'Avenir du Travail.)
The Japan Chronicle (A. Morgan Young). 1 l. 1922.
The Kaizo (S. Yamamoto). 2 ls. 1922. Also 1 l. to DR. 1921.
The Labour Magazine (W.W. Henderson). 1 l. 1922.
The Manchester Guardian (C.P. Scott). 1 l. 1923. Re article on Boxer
Indemnity.
Mosher, Thomas Bird. 2 ls. 1923.
Muirhead, J.H. 2 ls. 1923. Re "Logical Atomism".
The Nation & the Athenaeum (Alice L. Jones). 1 l. 1923.
The New Leader (H.N. Brailsford, A. Fenner Brockway). 3 ls. 1923. BR to,
1 l. 1932. Also 1 l. to DR, 1932. Encl. 1. from Walter J. Fuller of Atlantic
Literary Agency.
Ogden, C.K. 1 l. 1922. Re Introduction to Wittgenstein's Tractatus.
Pennsylvania, University of (Edward W. Mumford). 1 l. 1923. Re report
for Pennsylvania U. P. Also 2 ls. from Henry B. Smith.
Rationalist Press Association (Charles A. Watts). 1 l. 1922.
Raymond, Bernard. 2 ls. 1922–23.
Shun Pao, Shanghai (Francis Zia). 1 l. 1923.
von Aster Locker (?), Eveline. 1 l. 1922.
Williams and Norgate. 1 l. 1922.

*500 Political Organizations

Chelsea Trades Council and Labour Party (Frank Selfe). 1 l. 1923.
invitation to run for Lord Rectorship.
The Fabian Society (F.W. Galton). 4 ls. 1923. Re invitations to lecture and
preparation of syllabus.
Independent Labour Party, Chelsea Branch (Phillis A. Skinner). 1 l. 1923.
Independent Labour Party, London & Southern Counties Divisional
Council No. 6 (Ernest E. Hunter, Reginald Stamp). 1 l. 1923.

*710 Personal Correspondence

Amos, Maurice S. 1 l. 1923. Encl. copy of 1. to Percival.
Anonymous. 2 ls. 1923, n.d.
Baxter, Sylvester. 1 l. 1922.
Bayley, Frederick S. 1 l. 1923.
Bentwich, Naomi. 1 l. 1921.
Black, C. (relative of DR). 1 l. 1922.
Briffault, Robert. 2 ls. 1922.
Brinley, Clarence C. 1 l. 1922.
Brooks, Rachel. 1 l. to BR and DR. 1922.
Burmeister, Christian. 1 l. 1921. Encl. copy of Danish newspaper contain­ing
review of Principles of Social Reconstruction.
Canada, Dept. of Agriculture (J.A. Ruddick, Dairy Commissioner). 1 l. 1926.
BR's reply ts. carbon, encl. quote from The Times. (A typed copy
of BR's reply is in the National Archives of Canada [RA Rec. Acq. 800].)
Carnap, Rudolf. 2 ls. 1921–23. Encl. ts., mimeos, clipping of review by E.
von Aster.
Chao, Yuen Ren (BR's Chinese interpreter). 1 l. to BR and DR. 1921. 1 l.
to BR. 1922.
Chen, P.O. 1 l. 1923.
Cobden-Sanderson, Anne. 1 l. 1923.
Dewey, Alice. 1 l. N.d. but from Peking.
Driesch, Hans. 1 l. 1922.
Duddington, Nathalie. 1 l. 1922.
Dudley, Helen. 2 ls. N.d.
Dunton, W.F. 3 ls. 1923. Encl. ts. carbon of 1. to David Adams and
newspaper clipping.

Dziwiczki, M.H. 3 ls. 1923. (Says BR gave him his own copy of The Principles of Mathematics and knows he might have to ask for it back.)

Esser, Franz (BR's doctor in China). 1 l. 1923.

Fan, Chen-ling. 1 l. to BR and DR. 1922.

Ferris, Thomas H. 1 l. to DR. 1932. Encl. pamphlet; reply from BR (ts. carbon).

Fry, Roger. 1 l. 1922. Also 1 l. to DR. 1922.

Fu, S.N. 1 l. 1923. Encl. ms. on Boxer Indemnity Fund.

Greenwood, Georgie. 2 ls. N.d.

Hensley, Jessica. 1 l. 1927. Re Beacon Hill School (with message to DR at top from BR).

Hogben, Lancelot. 1 l. 1923.

Howard, A. ("Frank Godwin"). 1 l. 1922. Encl. ts. articles on Japan.

Hove, P.P. 1 l. N.d.

Jackson, Annabel Huth ("Tiny"), née Grant Duff. 1 l. 1923.

Jenkin, Charles Frewen. 1 l. 1922.

Johnston, R.A. 1 l. 1923.

Kaufmann, Felix. 1 l. 1920.

Keynes, J.M. 2 ls. 1923.


Koo Su-sung, T.Y. Chi, C.C. Yii. 1 l. 1923. Re Boxer Indemnity Fund.


Littlewood, J.E. 1 l. N.d.

Losky, N. (with translation from his Russian by N. Duddington). 1 l. 1922.

Lupton, Arnold. 1 l. 1922.

Meynell, Vera. 1 l. to BR and DR. N.d.

Morrell, Lady Ottoline. 2 cards, 1 pmk. 1923, and 1 ls. 1922, n.d. Encl. 1 l. from R.C. Trevelyan. 1922. Also 3 ls. to DR. 1925-34.

Nash, V. Leslie. 1 l. 1927.

Nearing, Scott. 2 ls. 1923, n.d. With financial calculations by BR.

Neville, Eric. 1 l. 1922.

Nichols, Robert Malise Bowyer. 1 l. N.d.

Nicholson, John William (Dorothy Wrinch's husband). 1 l. N.d. (but 1922).

Nicod, Jean. 1 l. 1922.

Hort, H.K. 2 ls. 1922.

Odinot, Louis. 1 l. 1921.


Österreichische Künstlerhilfe für die Hungernnden in Russland (J.B. Schweide, Frederick Kub). 2 ls. 1922. Re message and items for sale.

Pai Kien. 1 ls. 1922. Re proposed lecture tour of India by BR.

The Prospects of Industrial Civilization.

Stephen, Karin. 1 l. [1922].

Swanwick, Helena. 3 ls. 1922-23. Re Boxer Indemnity.

Swinerton, Frank. 1 l. 1922.

Tawker, T.B. 1 l. 1923. Re birth control.

Ting, V.K. 1 l. 1922.

Tsien, S.T. 1 l. 1921.

Vennables, Ethel. 1 l. 1923.

Waley, Arthur. 1 l. N.d.

Walston, Charles. 1 l. 1922.

Watney, Charles. 2 ls. 1923. Encl. pamphlet re Boxer Indemnity.

Webb, Beatrice. 2 ls. 1923.

Weinhandl, Ferdinand. 1 l. 1923.


Wells, H.G. 1 l. 1925.


Williams, Miss L.G. 1 l. 1923.

Wittgenstein, Ludwig. 3 ls. 1923, n.d. but probably 1922.

Wu, John C.H. 2 ls. 1923.
Yi, C.C. 2 ls. 1923. See also Koo Su-sung.
Yourin, Ignace. 2 ls. 1921.

*710 Personal Correspondence (Embargoed)

All correspondence in this class is embargoed until at least 31 May 1991. Documents relating to John Conrad Russell are embargoed until 17 December 1992. Documents relating to Patricia Russell or to Katharine Tait are embargoed indefinitely. Some enclosures in this class are not embargoed.

Barry, Griffin. 1 l. to DR, 1929; 1 l. from BR, 1933 (typed copy).
Russell, Dora. There are 267 letters from BR, dated as follows:

1922 1 l.
1923 3 ls.
1924 27 ls. and 2 telegrams.
1925 13 ls.
1926 5 ls.
1927 37 ls. Encl. copy of l. from G.C. Cole (surveyor), and ls. from Jessica Hensley and Barry Fox. Also ms., 1 leaf, outlining John's activities for 27 July.
1928 9 ls. Encl. balance sheet.
1929 31 ls., 2 telegrams, and 1 p.c. Encl. l. from Kit Hines. Also ms., 1 leaf, [24 Nov. 1929], concerning DR’s unborn child to be shown to Griffin Barry if DR wished.
1930 7 ls.
1931 14 ls.
1932 74 ls. Encl. l. from Robert O. Henry. 7 replies from DR (ts. carbons). Pencilled note in DR's hand.
1933 26 ls. Also 1 l. to “Madam” and 1 l. to Miss Mollard. Ts. carbon of a telegram from Alice. 5 ls. to BR (ts. carbons) from unidentified secretary.
1934 2 ls. and 1 p.c. Also 1 l. to “Madam” and 1 l. to “Dear Sir” (re Beacon Hill School). 4 ls. (ts. carbons) from secretary and 1 l. from DR.
1935 1 telegram.
1936 2 ls. Also 1 ts. carbon from DR.
1940 1 l. Encl. ts., 2 leaves, 22 Feb. 1940, concerning John and Kate.
1941 1 l. (ts. carbon) from DR.
1945 1 l.
1946 2 ls.
1949 5 ls.
1957 1 l.
1958 2 ls. 1 l. (ts. carbon) from DR.
1959 1 l.
1960 1 l.
1963 1 l.
1964 2 ls.
1965 2 ls.
1968 1 l.
1969 1 l.
1970 2 ls. from Edith Russell.

Russell, John Conrad, 4th Earl. 1 l. to DR, 1929 (possibly from Kate); 1 l. from BR, 1929; 1 p.c. from BR, 1935, and 2 ls. from BR (also addressed to Kate); 1 l. from BR, 1939 (also addressed to Kate); 1 telegram to DR and Pat Grace.

Spence (later Russell), Patricia Helen (“Peter”). 7 ls. to DR, 1931–32, n.d.; 1 l. to Griffin Barry, 1931; 1 l. to Miss Mollard, 1933; 2 ls. to “Madam”, 1934–35; 1 l. (ts. carbon) from secretary, 1933.

Tait, Katharine Jane. 1 l. to DR, 1929 (possibly from John); 1 l. from BR, 1933; 2 ls. from BR, 1935 (also addressed to John); 1 l. from BR, 1936; 1 l. from BR, 1939 (also addressed to John); 1 telegram to DR, 1945.

*730–37 Family Correspondence

Russell, Lady Agatha. 2 ls. 1922–23.
Russell, Arthur. 1 l. 1922.
Russell, Mary Annette (“Elizabeth”). Lady. 1 l. 1922. Re Wittgenstein’s visit.
Russell, John Francis (“Frank”) Stanley, 2nd Earl. 4 ls. 1923. Encl. extracts from l. from Agnes, Lady Grove, and his reply, and copy of l. from R.W.B. Buckland to him.

*740 Invitations

China Society (Lionel Giles). 1 l. 1923.
Deutsches Friedens Kartell/Bund der Kriegsdienstgegner (Robert Pohl). 1 l. 1922. To address the German Pacifist Congress.
Internationale Frauenliga für Freiheit und Freiheit. 2 ls. 1922.
Leicester Secular Society (Herbert E. Anderson). 1 l. 1923.
The New School for Social Research (Alvin Johnson). 1 l. 1922.
Reid, Charles I. 1 l. 1923. Re lecture tour of U.S.
Social Problem Circle, Liverpool (A. Bretherton). 2 ls. 1922.
Tönies, Ferdinand. 1 l. 1922.
University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire Political Union Committee (H.A. Marquand). 2 ls. 1922.
Wells, Catherine (“Jane”). 1 l. N.d.
The Chelsea Copying Office (May Carter). 1 l. 1923.
Child & Co. 1 l. 1923.
Dickens & Co. 1 l. 1923.
Drake, Son & Parton 1 l. 1922.
William B. Feakins, Inc. 4 l. 1923–28. Encl. statements of BR's earnings
and expenses. Also photocopy of 1 l. to DR, 1928, with encl. Original in
DR's papers, International Institute for Social History.
B. Jolley & Sons. 1 l. 1922. Also summary of account with L. Wittgen-
stein, 1919, listing furniture & linen.
Lort-Williams, John. 1 l. 1923. Re starting a legal action on birth control.
J.A. Treglown & Sons. 3 l. 1922. Re purchase of Carn Voel.
Vaughan Williams, C.E. 1 l. 1923. Re E.R. Hulett as tenant.
Wheeler Bros. 4 l. 1922–23. Re various tenants of 31 Sydney Street.
Witcop, Rose. 1 telegram to DR relaying solicitor's message. 1923.
Withers, Benson, Currie, Williams & Co. 7 l. 1922. Encl. copy of l. from
Frank Russell to Withers of 22 May 1922 and copy of l. from Phoenix
Assurance Co. of 18 May 1922 with BR's financial calculations on
verso. Also BR's Marriage Settlement Trust (1894) status in 1922.