Recent acquisitions: manuscripts, typescripts and proofs in the Dora Russell papers

by Kenneth Blackwell

A SURPRISINGLY LARGE number of manuscripts and typescripts by Bertrand Russell were found in the papers of Dora Russell shortly after she died in 1985. With Russell's correspondence, listed separately, and books and pamphlets formerly in his library, these 41 items are accessioned in the Russell Archives in Rec. Acq. 1,027. A few were reported earlier in photocopy form in Russell, n.s. 6 (Winter 1986–87): 154–64. Not described are a number of newspaper cuttings and tear sheets from magazines publishing these or other articles by Russell.

Like the correspondence, most of the manuscripts date from the early 1920s. This suggests that in leaving Carn Voel permanently, Russell simply overlooked some files. Other manuscripts that he had at the time came with the original Archives.

Several of the manuscripts have now been used in The Collected Papers of Bertrand Russell. E.g., Vol. 9 collates the Introduction to the Tractatus, and Vol. 2 quotes the notes on Cantor.

The Bertrand Russell Archives
McMaster University Library

*210 Book Manuscripts


"Science of Social Structure." [1920]. Preface to the Chinese [Five Lectures on Science of Social Structure] (1921). Ms.; 1 leaf. Published in English in Russell, n.s. 9 (Summer 1989): 5–6. Filed in folder 13 of The Prospects of Industrial Civilization, where the mss. for the lecture series may be found.

The Problem of China. 1922. Ms. of most chapters. Ts. 320 leaves. The Prospects of Industrial Civilization. 1923. Ms. Ts. and ts. carbon


*220 Article Manuscripts

"Notes from Herman/May Term 1893/Revision." Physics notebook in hard covers. 258 pp. Notes in this sequence cover rectos in one direction; see the first item under *230 for the other direction. As identified by N. Griffin, the notes are on a coaching work by Robert Alfred Herman.

"Notes on Helmholtz [sic]". (1893). 10 leaves, inserted in above notebook. They concern Hermann Helmholtz's *Wissenschaftliche Abhandlungen*, Vol. II.


[Introduction to Wittgenstein's *Tractatus*.] [1920]. Draft ts./ms.; 35 leaves. (Fos. 1–8, 25–35, are typed with emendations in BR's hand; fos. 9–26 are in Dorothy Wrinch's hand with some revisions in BR's.) New ts. prepared by C.K. Ogden, corrected by BR, and marked up for printing with Ogden's translation in 1922; 21 leaves, with emendations; paragraph addition to fol. 1 in BR's hand. Attached are the dedication and the English text of the Preface from the printer's copy.

"Ethics". N.d. [c. 1920–26]. Ms.; 1 leaf.


"China's Road to Freedom". [Note on fol. 1 of ms.: "Farewell Address, Peking, 5 July 1921."] Ms.; 20 leaves (first 13 in Dora's hand, next 7 in BR's). Ts. carbon; 12 leaves. In *The Peking Leader*, 7 July 1921, p. 3.


"To the Editor of the Manchester Guardian". [9 April 1923]. Ms.; 2 leaves. As "Missionary Influence in China~ Influence~ The Manchester

"Notes on Helmholz [sic]". [1893]. 10 leaves, inserted in above notebook. They concern Hermann Helmholtz's *Wissenschaftliche Abhandlungen*, Vol. II.

"Notes on the Nación". [1923]. Ms.; 6 leaves. Similar in length and tone to the *Nación* series, this ms. appears to be unpublished.

"The Editor, The Daily Herald". 19 Nov. 1924. Ts.; 3 leaves (much revised in Dora's hand). Signed by BR and DR. In reply to a letter or article by Sir Charles Addis and a leader, "Mr. Russell on British Imperialism in China; Brigands and British Banks". Not published (and possibly not sent).

*230 Mathematical Philosophy Manuscripts

"Notes on Non-Euclidean Geometry". May 1895. This sequence covers the verso of the pages in the notebook described first under *220.

"Notes on Mathematical Philosophy". Jan. 1897. Notebooks, soft covers. 124 pp. Russell wrote originally on the rectos. Later, in 1900, he made comments on the opposing versos. His early notes on Cantor are to be found here.