THE EDITH RUSSELL PAPERS

SHEILA TURCON
Russell Archives / McMaster University Library
Hamilton, Ont., Canada L8S 4M6

INTRODUCTION

Edith, Countess Russell, was born Edith Finch, the daughter of Edward Bronson Finch, a physician, and his wife, Delia, on 5 November 1900 in New York City. She was educated at Bryn Mawr College (AB, 1922) and St. Hilda's College, Oxford (HON BA, 1925; MA, 1926). Returning to Bryn Mawr, she was employed from time to time as an instructor of English literature, but she never became a permanent member of the faculty. A frequent traveller to Europe during these years of teaching and writing, Edith published biographies of Wilfred Scawen Blunt in 1938 and Carey Thomas, a President of Bryn Mawr, in 1947. She sometimes lectured at various schools and clubs off campus on biography in general and Blunt in particular. Edith and Lucy Martin Donnelly, a friend of both Russell and his first wife Alys, became close; together they built a home, New Place, in nearby Rosemont, Pennsylvania, where they lived after Lucy's retirement in 1936 as head of the English Department. Following Lucy's death in 1948 Edith worked as a freelance editor in New York City and in 1950 applied, unsuccessfully, for a position as an Intelligence Research Specialist/Foreign Affairs Officer in the US Foreign Service. At the same time, she moved to England: she and Russell were married two years, to the month, later.

They had been introduced by Lucy Donnelly and met on occasion during the 1930s and 1940s when Russell was visiting Lucy. When Russell was in New York to deliver the Matchette Foundation lectures in 1950 they met again, and their relationship developed quickly. It
was to bring great happiness to both. Russell's *Autobiography* is dedicated to her. She became a British subject in 1960 and, after Russell's death in 1970, remained in Wales where they had settled in the mid-1950s. Eight years later, Edith died on 1 January 1978.

An agreement by McMaster University Library to purchase her papers from the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation was made on 24 June 1985. The papers themselves did not arrive at the Russell Archives until nearly a year later, on 11 June 1986. Upon arrival, it was noted that many photographs that were listed with the agreement were missing, as well as some printed materials and books belonging to Lucy Donnelly, a typescript by Logan Pearsall Smith and some general correspondence. The Foundation has not been able to locate these missing items. More importantly, Russell's original letters to Edith (copies of which were included in Archives II) were not even listed as part of the agreement, and their location remains unknown as well.

The majority of the papers concern Edith's life after Russell's death. There is very little from her life before her marriage. This is surprising because of the amount of material she preserved and organized during her life with Russell which is now held in Archives I and II. In a letter of 1965 to Katharine McBride, President of Bryn Mawr, Edith asked for assistance with the facts of Lucy Donnelly's life, noting that many of her own papers had been lost or misplaced. Some of the papers relate to her life with Russell and could have formed part of Archives II: for example, third-party letters to and from Russell, her pocket diaries listing appointments for him, travel documents from vacations they took in the 1950s, the domestic records of their households at 43, Harker Street, London, and at Plas Penhryn, Penyndueraeth, Wales, which show Russell's active involvement, and papers relating to his death in 1970. Several of the letters from the period after Russell's death are reflective of their life together; in addition, there are two important manuscripts criticizing Ronald W. Clark's biography of Russell and Volume I of Dora Russell's autobiography, *The Tamarisk Tree*. The papers also contain a separate grouping of papers—those either created by or relating to Lucy Donnelly. They include eighteenth-century printed materials, as does the group of documents Edith saved on her family genealogy.

Provenance has been respected in that the major categories of organization are those of either Edith Russell or members of the Peace Foundation who were in possession of the papers for several years and who packed them for shipment here. Within many of the categories, however, the papers were in disorder upon arrival. This is especially true of the domestic correspondence and records. They have been arranged in order to facilitate access by researchers. Six-digit archival numbers have been assigned to all documents. The papers measure 3.3 m. (11 lin. ft.) and comprise 28 boxes.

All correspondence listed in this Recent Acquisition (no. 967) was entered in BRACERS, where it is accessible and searchable. Only the correspondents' names were extracted for this article. The BRACERS records, numbering 1,039, contain complete information on the letters; the topics of important letters are also extracted or summarized and included in the records. A selection of entries from the Topic_Text field are interspersed throughout the inventory.

"Document(s)" is abbreviated "doc(s).", and "photocopy(ies)" is abbreviated "P(s)."

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Ballinger, Hilda
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Barker, N.
Barry, Geraldine
Barry, R. H.
Bartlett, K. Joan
Basso, Lelio
Beaudrier, Robert
Bedford, Ian, Duke of
Bedford, Nicole, Duchess of
Bennett, Mary
Bernal, Eileen
Bernal, J. D.
Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation
Bertrand Russell Society

"He has, as I believe, must know, been very ill, off and on, during the past two—or perhaps it is three—years and in between illnesses much better and able to do the work that he wanted to do." (Edith Russell to Lady Constance Mallesson, 14 Feb. 1970, doc. 310919)

Bertrand Russell Society in Japan
Betlehem, Wilhelm
Bilainkin, George
Bilgrami, Akol
Bimbi, Linda
Bingham, G.
Rini, Maurizio
Bissell, Julia Broadhead
Black, Dora, Mrs.
Black, Jack
Blyth, Henry
Bok, Abigail
Bok, Hilary
Boudin, Leonard B.
Boyde, J. Lister
Brederoff, Elias
Brien, Donald
British Broadcasting Corporation
British Library of Political and Economic Science
British Society of Social Responsibility in Science
British United Provident Assn.
Brockway, Fenner
Bronygarth Hospital
Broome, Simon
Brown, John Mason, Mrs.
Bryn Mawr College
Budair, Rabbi Omar
Burke, Tom
Burn, Mary
Burn, Michael
Cameron, Hamish
Cameron, Peggy
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
Canino, Georges
Carr, Brian
Casson, Rosemary
Sear Leather, Rosemary
Catlin, George
Ch'ang Jen-hua
Chandler, Lloyd
Chao, Huwei
Chao, Yen Ren
Chapman, Margaret
See Jameson, Storm
Chelsea Copying Office
Chevell, Philip
Children, Frances S.
China, Embassy in Great Britain
Choi Choonsun
Chomsky, Noam
Clark, Ronald
Clinton, G., Mrs.
Coates, Ken
Coates, Tamara
Cockerell, Sydney
Cocneau, Jean
Cole, Roger A.
Comins, John D.
Continuum Ltd.
Cook, Christopher P.
Cooper, Dennis
Cosmopolitan Club
Cowey, Sarah
Cranford, Peter G.
Crawshay-Williams, Elizabeth
Crawshay-Williams, Rupert
Crenshaw, Louise (Mrs. J. L. Crenshaw)
Cushman, Mike

Thank-you for the donation of large-print books which had belonged to BR; very grateful for donations of books over several years. (Mertonshill County Council to Edith Russell, 3 March 1970, doc. 310917)

Eames, Elizabeth R.
Eaton, Cyrus
Edge, Mrs.
Edmonds, John
Education for International Understanding
Egner, Robert E.
Elliot, Mabel L.
Ellison-Brown, Elaine
Elmhirst, Susanna
Ely, Gertrude
Epstein, Kathleen
Fairbairn, Elsie
Farley, Christopher

D'Esopo, D. Anthony
Dabrowski, Doris R.
Dauncey, Maryon
Davies, Mansel
Davies, Rhiannon
Davis, Robert K.
de Chadenedes, Anne
de Chadenedes, Edith
de Chadenedes, John
Dedijer, Vladimir
Deguchi, Kyotaro
Demonn, Bev
Demonn, Lester E.
Denson, Alan
Desouza, Dot
Dickens Society of Ceylon
Dobkin, Marjorie
Dolci, Danilo, Trust
Dong, Pham Van
Dore-Deavis, W. J.
Dore, Judith
Drake, Constance Laboiteaux
Drake, Thomas E.
Draper, Edith
Dudley, Mrs.

"The 4-year-old B[ertrand] that I found for the first time in 1918 when he was in Brixton & I in his Bury St. flat, clearing out his desk | was entranced with that photo & have loved it ever since... The portrait of B. on p. 33 [of Farley & Hodgson] was taken for me In 1916 by Hugh Cecil ... It specially good of his hands I think..." (Lady C. Malleson to Edith Russell, 14 Nov. 1972, doc. 310938)
"I shall always remember in connection with Bertie two occasions on which he showed, not the public and impressive figure but the kind and considerate companion to his wife's friends." (Caroline Robbins to Edith Russell, 19 June 1970, doc. 310995)
Letters contain reminiscences of BR as well as Arthur Koestler and one of her husbands, the Hollywood director, J. Lee Thompson.


Correspondents:
Dryden, Anne
Russell, Anne
Russell, Conrad
Russell, Dora
Russell, Edith
Russell, Elizabeth (Mrs. Conrad Russell)
Russell, John Conrad
Russell, Lucy
Russell, Sarah
Tait, Katherarine
Terry, Anne
Underwood, Anne
Underwood, Rowan
Vellacott, Jo

Correspondents:
Abbott, K. A. M.
Dadlez, Alina
Miller, Carol
Russell, Edith
Unwin, Rayner
Unwin, Stanley

Correspondents:
Bunce, A.
Cook, Thomas, & Son
Hermans (?), G. W.
McAllister, Catherine
McAllister, Gilbert
Pont-Royal Hotel
Russell, Bertrand
Russell, Edith
Sealhat, Robert

Miscellaneous Files:
Luggage tags, 1 folder. Doc. 31145.

Correspondents:
Bell, J. W.
Brown, Shipley & Co., Ltd.
Child & Co.
Coward, Chance & Co. (later Coward Chance)
Drover, C. B.
Duffield, J. E.

Invoices, 1967-69, listing all books ordered, 1 folder. Doc. 311492.

ORDER FORMS (box 13, docs. 311466-311469)

Promotional literature, 1 folder. Doc. 311494.

Blank order forms and catalogues, 1 folder. Doc. 311495.

Finances:
Austria (Vienna):

Britain:

Denmark (Copenhagen):

France (Paris):
Hotel bill with restaurant and bar charges, 1 piece of travel literature, 1955. Doc. 311463.

Greece:
Hotel bill, currency exchange forms, currency, ticket stubs, trip itinerary prepared by Wagon-Lits, travel literature, April 1952. Doc. 311439.

Countries:
Austria (Vienna):

France (Paris):
Hotel bill with restaurant and bar charges, 1 piece of travel literature, 1955. Doc. 311463.

Greece:
Hotel bill, currency exchange forms, currency, ticket stubs, trip itinerary prepared by Wagon-Lits, travel literature, April 1952. Doc. 311439.
Felton, Anton  
Hancock, A. E.  
Littlemore Hospital  
Lock, Barry D. S.  
Madas, H. E.  
Ministry of Pensions & National Insurance  
Pigott, H. S.  
Pullock, G. F.  
Popkin, Percy A. & Co.  
Post Office, Richmond  
Russell, Bertrand  
Russell, Edith  
Spark, J. P.  
Tylor, Louis P.  
U. S. Dept. of Internal Revenue  
Watson, Louise  
Waugh, D. J., Mrs.

DOMESTIC RECORDS AND CORRESPONDENCE (boxes 18–23, docs. 311641–312507)  Note: Russell's correspondence has been kept in separate folders.

Plas Penrhyn, Penrhynceudraeth:  
Lists of domestic staff, 1 folder. Doc. 311872.  
Fabric samples and decorating lists, 1 folder. Doc. 311873.  
Bills, notices, etc., 3 folders. Docs. 311874–311876.

Enclosed lists concern furniture, carpets, china, etc. that the Kitchings, former occupants of Plas Penrhyn, sold to the Russells. (William Kitching to Edith Russell, 15 June 1955, doc. 311774)

Correspondence:
Abbott, R. J.  
Army & Navy Stores  
Aston, S., Mrs.  
Aston's  
Barclays Bank Ltd.  
Black, J.  
Blount, G. F.

Brindle, L.  
Burgess Coal Co., The John Child & Co.  
Coward, Chance & Co.  
Crawshay-Williams, Elizabeth  
Crawshay-Williams, Rupert  
Deudraeth District Council  
Dobies Ltd.  
Dunn & Ellis  
Edwards, M.  
Edwards, Margaret (domestic staff)  
Ellis, L.  
Ellis, Mr.  
Evans, M.  
Farley, Christopher  
Felton, Anton  
Fletcher, Herbert  
Focus Consumer Advertising  
Forestier-Walker, Piers (gardener)  
Graigddu Contractors  
Griffiths, Bridget (domestic staff)  
Griffiths, Ruby (domestic staff)  
Harris, Margaret  
Heal & Son Ltd.  
Heald and Nickolson  
Humphreys, Eirwen (domestic staff)  
Jones & Sons, R. C.  
Jones, D. J.  
Jones, D. W.  
Jones, Eleanor (Mrs. Lewis Jones)  
Jones, Lewis (gardener)  
Jones, R. P.  
Kerfoots Ltd.  
Kitching, William  
Lloyd-Jones, E. J.  
Lloyd, Kate (domestic staff)  
Luxton, W. G.  
Madas, H. E.  
Mason and Nicholson  
Merioneth County Council  
Menseyad Electric Board  
Morgan, Nell (domestic staff)  
Morris, G. E.  
Mullock, Thomas W. (gardener)  
Murphy, O. Duncan  
Murrells of Shrewsbury  
National Provincial Bank Ltd.

A representative of the Cheltenham Festival will be in touch re obtaining the Epstein bust of BR for display. (Edith Russell to Nell Morgan, 24 Aug. 1962, doc. 311836)

Nicholson, E.  
Osborne, Richard (gardener)  
Owen, J.  
Pegg, R. N.  
Pendlebury, D. J.  
Perry, C. F.  
Peter Jones (store)  
Phillips, Margaret (domestic staff)  
Popkin, Percy A.  
Popkin, Percy A. & Co.

"This is to assure you that we have had no water from the main since before Christmas and that our private well [at Plas Penrhyn] is now dry." (BR to Portmadoc Waterworks, 28 Jan. 1963, doc. 311698)

Portmadoc Waterworks  
Post Office, Chester  
Presige Group Ltd.  
Prytherch, Robert  
Pugh Jones, John  
Quaegk. G. & Co.  
Roberts, Wyn  
Rossi, Joseph  
Russell, Bertrand  
Russell, Edith  
Russell, Gilbert, Mrs.  
Smith, E. G. S.  
Tandy, V., Miss  
Thomas, K. M., Mrs.  
Thomas, M., Mrs.  
Tuck, C. J.  
Tyreman, C.  
Vasey, J. E.  
Walkers Refrigeration Ltd.  
Waterer, John, Sons & Crip  
Williams & Son  
Williams-Ellis, Clough  
Williams-Ellis, Roger  
Williams, Osmond ("Michael")  
Williams, W. C.  
Willson, Walter H., Ltd.  
Winter, W. G.  
Wood & Sons, Ltd., John  
Worth (London) Ltd.

45. Harker Street, London SW1.
Keys. Doc. 311904.
Lease. Docs. 311905–311907.
Miscellaneous lists by Edith Russell, printed matter, etc., 1 folder. Doc. 311991.
Bills, notices, etc., 1 folder. Doc. 311992.

Correspondents:
Atkins, M.  
Boyce, J. Lister  

"I am sorry to hear that there is still trouble about your commission on the sale of the lease of 43 Harker Street. I do not know exactly what the legal position is, but I wish to assure you that, if the vendor does not pay your commission, I will pay it myself as you have done so much good work on my behalf." (BR to E. H. Brooks & Son, 10 Sept. 1958, doc. 311913)

Brooks & Son, E. H.  
Brooks, Roy E.  
Cadogan Settled Estates Co. (later Cadogan Estates Management Ltd.)  
Chesteron & Sons  
Child & Co.  
Coward, Chance & Co.  
Cowley & Andersen Ltd.  
Farley, Christopher  
Harrods  
Hobbs, J.  
Lair, P.  
Locks Ltd.  
Lomath Bros. Ltd.  
London Electricity Board  
May & Son (Builders) Ltd., A.  
McMullen, M. T.  
Miles, R. V.  
Milton and Co., Andrew
"Unluckily his throat has been very bad for the past week.... He has been having for lunch and dinner milk soup made of lentils or peas or potatoes or mixed vegetables—all of them strained. Steamed or baked lemon sole seems to go down too.... It might be wise to get in some of those vegetable purees... such as we used at 29 Millbank when Lord Russell's throat was so bad two or three springs ago." (Edith Russell to Jean Redmond, 6 April 1959, doc. 311206)
MANUSCRIPTS BY EDITH RUSSELL


"E.R.'s Comments on Mr. Denonn's List of Suggested Additions to Basic Writings. (Barry Feinberg and Anton Felton agree with these Comments)."

Ts. carbon; 1 leaf. Box 2, doc. 1971.


First Notes on Clark's Biography of BR". [1975]. Ms.; 5 leaves.

"Comments on Clark's Biography of BR (after 1st reading)". [1975]. Ms.; 27 leaves.

"Comments on Clark's Biography of BR (after 3rd reading)". [1975]. Ms.; 89 leaves.

There is also a copy of The Life of Bertrand Russell by Clark with numbered points written in it to match the numbers in the ms.; the dust-jacket has been removed and is titled "Clark's fatuous book". (Also a 70-page transcript of the ms. prepared by RA.)


\"Notes on The Tamarisk Tree by Dora Russell\". Sept. 1975. Ms.; 19 leaves. There is also a copy of the book.

[Notes on Michael Burn's ts.] [1976]. Ms.; 3 leaves. See entry under Manuscripts by Others for a description of the ts.

MANUSCRIPTS BY OTHERS

(1976). Ms.; 1 leaf."

"[The rider found few takers ...]." 1976. Ms.; 1 leaf.


the play in Russell, no. 10 (1973): 13–14.)


Whetall, Graham. "On Bertrand Russell and My Fourth Symphony", 1972. Ts/ts. carbon; 8 leaves. The title-page notes that "this article was the basis for an interview with Graham Whetall recorded by Netherlands Radio in Sept. 1973." Also 2 mimeo copies. A third mimeo copy was issued in 1977 with a postscript; the title was changed to "On Bertrand Russell—and a Symphony" to reflect the change in the symphony’s title to Sinfonia contra Timore.

PERSONAL DOCUMENTS (box 14, docs. 311497–311513)

Bertrand Russell:

Edith Russell:
Alien Registration cards: 1921 and 1938, with photos. Doc. 311499.

Miscellaneous jottings and lists including a ts, "The Proper Way to Address Us"; printed cards and programmes. 1 folder, docs. 311513.
USA Foreign Service application: 1950; 2 ts., "The Proper Way to Address Us", "The Proper Way to Address Us"; printed cards and programmes. 1 folder, docs. 311513.

New Place: 2 photos; b&w; 15 x 10 cm. Doc. 311508.

--: 3 photos; b&w; 11.5 x 17 cm. Doc. 311508.
--: candlessticks at: 1 photo; b&w; 25 x 20 cm. Edith’s note on verso states that they were sold in 1951. Doc. 311506.
--: painting by P. Tchelitchew, "Ane-

GREETING CARDS: CHRISTMAS AND BIRTHDAY TO EDITH RUSSELL (box 9)
262 cards

MISCELLANEOUS (box 28, docs. 312605–312609)
Change purse and charge cards. Doc. 312605.
Happy Birthday tablet. Doc. 312606.

BURRIFS (box 28, docs. 312508–312579)

Lucy Donnelly Papers (box 24, docs. 312508–312579)
Materials pertaining to Lucy Donnelly.

Fellowship in Her Honour:
Flyer, publicizing the foundation of the fellowship. Doc. 312542.

Legal Documents:
Deed of transfer, will, funeral bill. Docs. 312542–312548.
Teaching contracts, photocopies. Docs.

The Edith Russell Papers 77
Manuscripts:


Also the following printed materials by Catharine Macaulay collected for the above article: *Loose Remarks on Certain Positions to Be Found in Mr. Hobbes's Philosophical Rudiments of Government and Society* (London: 1767); *An Address to the People of England, Scotland, and Ireland, on the Present Important Crisis of Affairs* (London: E. and C. Dilly, 1775). Docs. 3.12576-3.12578.

See also MSS. BY EDITH RUSSELL.

Memorial Service:


[Extract from Faculty Minutes on Lucy Donnelly], 8 Dec. 1948. Ts.; 2 leaves. Sent to Board of Directors, her nephew and Edith Russell. Doc. 3.12529.


Miscellaneous:

Folder of miscellaneous items: printed materials, small tapestry, leather writing case, map of Middle East with list of cities in Edith Russell's hand on verso, minutes of the Chinese Scholarship Committee, 16 Nov. 1920. Doc. 3.12579.

New Place (home on Beech Road, Rosemont, Penn. shared with Edith Russell from 1936 to 1948):


Blueprints for house. Docs. 3.12571-3.12573.

Land Purchase Conveyance, 3 June 1935. Doc. 3.12565.


Tree Plan for Grounds. Docs. 3.12574-3.12575.

Photographs:

Donnelly, Lucy, with Mrs. Edward Bronson Finch; b&w; 9 x 6.5 cm. From Katherine Peek. Doc. 3.12523.

Donnelly, Lucy, with Mrs. Edward Bronson Finch and Katherine Peck; b&w; 9 x 6.5 cm. From Katherine Peek. Doc. 3.12523.

Re Desmond MacCarthy going to Bryn Mawr to lecture. (L.P. Smith to L. Donnelly, 10 Jan. 1934, doc. 3.12522)

Correspondents:

Adams, C. K.

Donnelly, Lucy

Durham & Irvine

James, Edward T.

Johnson, Joseph E., Mrs.

MacGeorge, Beatrice

McBride, Katharine

National Portrait Gallery

Notable American Women

Rambo, Eleanor E.

Russell, Edith

Smith, Logan Pearsall

Stephens, Viola (Mrs. John J. Stephens)

Whitly, Miss

"We live... in North Wales, deep in the country... People from all over the world—many from the U.S.A.—all colours, black yellow and white, coming and going all the time. So life is busy and most unpredictable—and interesting." (Edith Russell to Viola Stephens, 15 Sept. 1965, doc. 3.12554)