25 years at McMaster

Spring 1993 will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the advent of the Bertrand Russell Archives to McMaster University and the end of an era. Those of you who have visited the Archives will soon find them in a new place in the expanded and renovated Mills Library, where they will share a reading-room with the rest of the Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections but also professional standards for humidity, temperature and dust control.

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A Detailed Catalogue of the Second Archives of Bertrand Russell, coauthored with Carl Spadoni and myself, was published in Bristol in 1992 by Thoemmes Press. Chandrakala Padia’s book on Russell’s political and economic theories, especially as applied to the third world, has been published in India.

A new volume of the Collected Papers has appeared: Volume 6, Logical and Philosophical Papers, 1909–13. John G. Slater is the editor, with the assistance of Bernd Frohmann. Eleven of the forty-four critical-text papers are published for the first time, and many more for the first time in book form. The publisher is Routledge and the price is £100 for the 632 pages.

Eight volumes of the Collected Papers have now appeared, of which one has been reprinted. With the imminent demise of certain top-quality but antiquated typesetting equipment here, the Project editors have accelerated the completion of several volumes. Volume 3, Toward the “Principles of Mathematics”, 1900–02, edited by Gregory Moore, is finished and with the publisher. Volume 4, Logical Foundations, 1903–05, edited by Alasdair Urquhart with the assistance of Albert C. Lewis, is with referees. And the two volumes of the Bibliography, by Harry Ruja and myself, assisted by Bernd Frohmann, John G. Slater and Sheila Turcon, are on the very verge of completion. The four volumes should be published by Routledge by the end of 1993.

The new publisher of Russell’s works reissued six titles in 1992. Each one is introduced by John G. Slater. In addition Routledge brought out a paperbound, abridged edition of Theory of Knowledge, Volume 7 of the Collected Papers. The complete critical text is there, with Elizabeth R. Eames’s introduction. Only the scholarly apparatus is lacking (for which please consult a library edition). This year more reissues are due from Routledge. The Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation is reprinting two of Russell’s works: The Practice and Theory of Bolshevism and The Problem of China.

Caroline Moorehead’s biography has appeared to critical acclaim in Britain (published by Sinclair-Stevenson) and in Canada (McClelland & Stewart). Her task was huge. Although in its review The Vancouver Sun wondered why, “with dozens of writings on Russell already available (including The Journal of the Bertrand Russell Archives, a biography by his daughter and a three-volume autobiography)”, we needed another, it did point out that Moorehead uses newly available collections of Russell’s correspondence and has written “a worthy memorial”. The new letters indeed justify a new biography, as do changing evaluations of Russell’s life.

The Miscellaneous and Invitation classes in Russell Archives 1 and 11 have now been catalogued, bringing the total records in BRACERS to 46,377. This is a growth of 37% since last issue, thanks in part to the services of a graduate student assistant, Dale Anderson. McMaster’s Computer and Information Services have upgraded the system significantly in several ways both for input and consultation. As examples of the latter, the records for Russell’s correspondence for any date and any date period can now be retrieved by a ready-made query available to all who have access to BRACERS; and a simultaneous search can be made just as easily of the four standard name fields together with the large miscel-
aneous field into which we can put both Russell's text and comments.

Cataloguing the Invitations—which aren't all gold-crested cards from the London embassies and learned societies—unearthed autograph letters from E. M. Forster and Karl Popper; while the Miscellaneous Correspondence yielded, among other treasures, poignant but apparently unanswered letters from the son of G. E. Moore and from J. P. Jordi. The latter was the unnamed "Communist" journalist whom Russell had accused, in 1948, of misrepresenting his New Commonwealth speech on "Atomic Energy and the Problems of Europe".

Rec. Acqs. The past year has seen three notable acquisitions of original documents. Several short manuscripts published in *The Nation and the Athenaeum* were sold at auction, and we managed to acquire the most important, some thirty-two leaves comprising "Impressions of Bolshevist Russia" (1920). These articles directly became chapters of *The Practice and Theory of Bolshevism* and tell us a great deal about the transmission of Russell's important words into print.

Russell Society The annual meeting of the Bertrand Russell Society will be held in San Diego on 11–13 June. This is where Harry Ruja makes his home, so fresh bibliographical discoveries in local libraries are not among the lures San Diego has to offer members. (Nonetheless I hope to attend.)