

A BIBLIOGRAPHICAL INDEX FOR
PRINCIPIA MATHEMATICA

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The bibliographical references made by the authors of *Principia Mathematica* are few for such a large work. They explain it thus: “Our chief obligations will be obvious to every reader who is familiar with the literature of the subject” (*PM*, 1: viii). Yet gathered together they may provide extra light on the research for that work. Excluding literary examples and Russell’s own *Principles of Mathematics*, 26 works are cited, but only half postdate the *Principles*. All the rest, save Jevons, are in the *Principles*.¹ No works by Whitehead are cited. The latest of the citations is to a 1908 article by Hausdorff. Although the authors state that “In Geometry we have had continually before us the writings of v. Staudt, Pasch, Peano, Pieri, and Veblen”, only some of Peano’s works are cited. Cantor is also acknowledged but cited only once and not until **3: 44n**. There is a reference to a fictional item, which the authors use as an example (*Slawkenburgius on Noses*); it is taken from Laurence Sterne’s *Tristram Shandy*, Bk. iv.

Principia volume and page references, in bold type, are to the second edition. Also indicated is whether the items are in Russell’s library or archives. Original errors are silently corrected and the entries expanded where needed.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL INDEX FOR THE FIRST EDITION

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| Burali-Forti, Cesare | Cantor, Georg |
| — “Una questione sui numeri trans-
fini”, <i>Rendiconti del circolo matema-</i> | — “Beiträge zur Begründung der
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¹ See my “A Bibliographical Index for *The Principles of Mathematics*”, *Russell*, n.s. 20 (2000): 141–50. Bernard Linsky kindly read proofs. Alasdair Urquhart pointed out Slawkenburgius to me.

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Russell states in the “Introduction to the Second Edition” that “The following are among the contributions to mathematical logic since the publication of the first edition of *Principia Mathematica*” (**1: xlv**). Everywhere else in the Introduction he refers to *Principia* as if it is a separate work. That helps to account for the complete absence of additional references inserted in *Principia*’s original text, for he did not intend to allow more than its typographical correction and repagination. In the manuscript he had written the words “more important” before “contributions”, but Frank Ramsey, in reading proofs, persuaded him to drop them. Ramsey may have been the source of most of the 24 items in the bibliography.² In his letter of 20 February 1924, Ramsey wrote: “I’m putting in with this a list of all the recent literature which I have heard of, which you could possibly want to look at or refer to.” The first item listed for Sheffer is odd for two reasons: it is a 17-line abstract, and it appeared in 1910. Ramsey had commented in the same letter, on reading Russell’s copy of Sheffer’s 1921 work, that “The abstracts of papers to which he refers give one no idea” of how he used “this very abstract stuff”.

Every work is referred to on pages **xlvi–xlv** of Volume 1.

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² Some of the works were already known to Russell, as is seen from his citations in *Introduction to Mathematical Philosophy* and *Papers* 8 and 9, or from their presence in his archives. For Chwistek’s 1924 entry, see Linsky, “Leon Chwistek and the No-Classes Theory of *Principia Mathematica*”, *History and Philosophy of Logic*, 25 (2004): 53–71 (esp. 53, 64–7).

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