

Celebrating *Principia*'s Centenary, 2010–13 ¶ *PM@100*, the Bertrand Russell Research Centre's conference to mark the centenary of the monumental *Principia Mathematica*, was held at McMaster in May 2010. There were 34 speakers on its programme, with abstracts at <http://pm100.mcmaster.ca>.

Two volumes of proceedings are planned, the first being the present issue of this journal. Publication details of Nicholas Griffin and Bernard Linsky's other volume will be forthcoming. The present issue will also be available as a monograph under the title *Principia Mathematica at 100*. Other centenary celebrations have been held. Trinity College, Dublin held its "One Hundred Years of *Principia Mathematica*: a Centenary Workshop" on 12 July 2010 with five speakers; abstracts are on its website. Université de Bourgogne held a conference, "Dans le cadre du centenaire de la publication des *Principia mathematica*" on 8 November 2010 with two speakers; abstracts are on the website. Trinity College, Cambridge held its "*Principia Mathematica* Anniversary Symposium" on 27–28 November 2010, with nine speakers. Texts or abstracts of all but one paper are available on its website. The Library of Congress's conference on the sesquicentenary of A. N. Whitehead's birth, 17 February 2011, included a paper on *PM*. Although the total number of *PM* speakers is impressive, the world population of *PM* specialists is hardly large, and several appeared at more than one event.

Forthcoming Books ¶ Forthcoming in summer 2011 is *The Evolution of Principia Mathematica: Bertrand Russell's Notes and Manuscripts for the Second Edition* by Bernard Linsky (Cambridge U. P.). Also to appear in 2011 are *The Theory of Descriptions* by Graham Stevens and *Russell's Unknown Logicism: a Study in the History and Philosophy of Mathematics* by Sébastien Gandon (both Palgrave Macmillan). Richard Leacock's *The Feeling of Being There* (Paris: Semeion Editions) is due out in 2011 with a DVB edition. He writes about Russell in 1935. Griffin and Gandon have commenced work on an edition of the correspondence of Whitehead and Russell. The bulk, with manuscript attachments, covers the *PM* years.

A *PM* for Dummies? ¶ Russell wrote in 1959 to Prem P. Casshyap, who was wondering about mathematical preparation for a plunge into *PM*: "I think you would do well to tackle the first volume of *Principia Mathe-*

matica which I do not think you would find difficult. You can skip the demonstrations which are only put in to confute the sceptics. No previous knowledge of any kind is required for reading the book.” That would allow those without a logical background to qualify. After all, it’s the *PM* centenary (until 2013), and an attempt to understand his most intensive intellectual effort is warranted. Ultimately, one would aspire to go beyond *PM* and appreciate how Gödel critiqued it. There’s still time for someone to write a *Principia Mathematica for Dummies*. It’s surely needed by those who combine “no previous knowledge of any kind” with finding *PM* “difficult”.

Recent Acquisitions ¶Foremost among recent acquisitions are eight letters from Russell to Gretchen (Mrs. Fiske) Warren, of Boston, during 1914–16 (and a letter in 1944). The earliest, on 14 July 1914, betrays what Russell later regarded as complacency as Europe rushed unawares to war. Later letters show his “shame”, his “horror”, and his overcoming of “spiritual” defeat in the carnage of his students, friends and fellow countrymen and still others. In keeping with Ray Monk’s thesis of madness, Russell describes himself as made mad by the madness around him, but overcoming it. The Bertrand Russell Society and three donor members materially assisted in the purchase. Ray Perkins has discovered that papers of the Cambridge Apostles (“the Society”) are at King’s College. Occasionally Russell used a letter in a publication and discarded it. That’s the case with engineer Percy Griffith’s letter on causality, c. 1926, which is excerpted in *An Outline of Philosophy* (Allen & Unwin, 1927), pp. 124–6. Such letter texts could be part of a published collection of letters to Russell to complement the current Collected Letters project.

The Russell Society ¶The 2011 annual meeting will be held 20–22 May at Drew University, Madison, New Jersey. For up-to-date news, consult the Society’s website, <http://users.drew.edu/~jlenz/brs.html>.

New Book ¶Thomas Baldwin and Consuelo Preti have edited G. E. Moore’s two fellowship dissertations under the title, *Early Philosophical Writings* (Cambridge, 2011). Marginal remarks by Russell are reported. Though he seldom displayed it, he had a lifelong interest in metaethics.

Electronic Russell ¶Except for the latest two volume years, *Russell* may be consulted freely on the Internet. Go to the Library’s site, <http://digitalcommons.mcmaster.ca/russelljournal/>. For online and print subscriptions, see the rear cover of this issue.

BRACERS ¶The annotated catalogue of correspondence in the Russell Archives reached a total of 119,147 records by mid-May 2011. 513 new entries were created since the last issue. The database is globally accessible at <http://russell.mcmaster.ca/bracers>.

“Russell-I” ¶Russell-I is a discussion forum managed by Andrew Bone for the benefit of Russell Studies. Visit <http://mailman.mcmaster.ca/mailman/listinfo/russell-l>. The forum is currently dormant.
