

## A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PATRICIA RUSSELL

KENNETH BLACKWELL

Russell Archives/Russell Research Centre / McMaster U.  
Hamilton, ON, Canada L8S 4L6  
BLACKWK@MCMASTER.CA

**B**ertrand Russell took his own advice not to marry a woman novelist, but he did marry women who wrote for publication. His third wife, Patricia Russell (née Marjorie Spence, then Patricia Helen Spence, and, after divorcing Russell, Mrs. P. H. Spence) was no exception. Having studied history at Oxford, she did a great deal of research for Russell and some actual writing. She did some public speaking during the CCNY case in 1940, and in 1946 she organized a major meeting in Cambridge for the Save Europe Now organization. Later in the 1940s she began employment in town planning, and brief mentions of that topic show up in *Authority and the Individual* (1949). The Bodleian Library, Oxford, has a box of her papers, placed, at her instructions, under a very lengthy embargo.

On one occasion while they were in America there was an employment opportunity for her. It involved her writing skills, and her husband drafted the following testimonial. With its strikeouts, it is unfinished in the form in which it survives, and we cannot be sure it was sent. It is dated December 6, 1941.

My wife, Patricia Helen Russell, has, throughout the last ten years acted both as my collaborator and as my secretary. In the latter capacity she has drafted and written, on my behalf, letters on a great variety of subjects, and has shown great skill in doing so, ~~both as regards literary style and grasp of the matter concerned.~~ As regards collaboration: In "Freedom and Organization, 1814–1914", she did a very large part of the research and a considerable part of the actual writing. In "The Amberley Papers", which was published under our joint names, she did considerably more than half the work, not only as regards detail, but also as regards the general plan. In addition to this work on books, she has written magazine articles on my behalf, sometimes in part, sometimes wholly. ~~Her purely secretarial work has been very extensive and always admirable.~~ (RAI 142.079883)

### BOOKS

By "the last ten years" Russell is dating the start of their collaboration to 1932. This is consistent with the acknowledgements he makes to her in several books on which she collaborated with him in various ways, in addition to her title-page

credit in *The Amberley Papers*. They even planned a joint work, on the rise of Nazism and Fascism,<sup>1</sup> but after some years it was discontinued. She contributed much to the unpublished book manuscript, "The Problems of Democracy", written in 1941–42.

*Freedom and Organization, 1814–1914.*

London: George Allen & Unwin; New York: W. W. Norton, 1934. Preface, p. viii: "Throughout the writing of this book, the work has been shared by my collaborator, Peter Spence, who has done half the research, a large part of the planning, and small portions of the actual writing, besides making innumerable valuable suggestions." (The first edition omitted "valuable" and an erratum slip was inserted.)

*In Praise of Idleness and Other Essays.* London: George Allen & Unwin; New York: W. W. Norton, 1935. Preface, p. 6: "I have also to acknowledge the assistance of Peter Spence in suggesting and discussing many of the subjects."

*The Amberley Papers: the Letters and Diaries of Lord and Lady Amberley.* Edited by Bertrand and Patricia Russell. 2 vols. London: Leonard & Virginia Woolf at the Hogarth Press; New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1937. The preface is signed "B.R." above "P.R."

From Russell's letter to *The Times Literary Supplement*, 20 March 1937: "Your reviewer treats the work as more mine and less my wife's than is in fact the case. She did more than half, not only of the very considerable drudgery, but of the selecting, arranging and annotating. For example, the last chapter, which your reviewer singles out for praise, was entirely my wife's work; and, indeed, the whole book is so unlike my usual work that I should never have attempted it alone" (*Papers*

21: 405). Russell goes on to say that this ought to have been made clear in the preface.

From his letter to *Time and Tide*, 10 Apr. 1937: "The introductory chapters, being largely personal reminiscences, were necessarily mine, but this does not apply to the rest of the book. There were two editors, and the notes, except when they have my initials, are mostly my wife's. The labour of editing was very great, as our material was about ten times what we selected for publication; the greater part of the selecting and arranging was my wife's" (*Papers* 21: 405–6).

*A History of Western Philosophy and Its Connection with Political and Social Circumstances from the Earliest Times to the Present Day.* New York: Simon and Schuster, 1945. Preface, p. xi: "As in most of my work during the last thirteen years, I have been greatly assisted, in research and in many other ways, by my wife, Patricia Russell." In the London: George Allen & Unwin, 1946 edition, "last thirteen years" became "years since 1932".

*Authority and the Individual.* London: George Allen & Unwin; New York: Simon and Schuster, 1949. Prefatory Note, p. [7]: "In the preparation of these lectures I have had the benefit of vital assistance by my wife, Patricia Russell, not only as regards details, but as regards the general ideas and their application to the circumstances of the present day."

<sup>1</sup> See Brett Lintott, "Russell's Aborted Book on Fascism", *Russell* 28 (2008): 39–64.

PUBLISHED ARTICLES AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

- "The Age of Stagnation". *The Sunday Referee*, 5 Nov. 1933, p. 14. Published under BR's byline. B&R C33.82. The typed carbon, titled "On Mending Old Shoes", has his name deleted and "Peter Spence" inserted.
- "Freedom and Organisation". *Sunday Times*, London, 25 Nov. 1934. Signed Peter Spence, Harting, Petersfield. In his substantial review in the issue of 28 Oct., titled "The Philosopher Turned Historian; Croce and Bertrand Russell", Sir Ernest Barker pointed out an error. Russell wrote that the Russian Baltic fleet, *on the way home from Japan*, fired upon English fishing boats (p. 491). Patricia admitted to it as her typing error. It "does not occur in his [Russell's] ms."
- "Mrs. Russell Speaks!" *Journal of Social Studies* (CCNY student journal) 2, no. 1 (spring 1940): 3-4. Signed Patricia Russell, Los Angeles, CA. Dated 20 April 1940. Last paragraph: "My husband has read and approved this letter and hopes that you will publish it." Reprinted in *New York Herald-Tribune*, 8 May 1940; *New York World-Telegram*, n.d.
- "Bertrand Russell Explains: Gives His Reasons for Not Withdrawing and Ending Controversy". *The New York Times*, 26 Apr. 1940, p. 20. Dated 23 Apr. 1940. B&R C40.06. An RA clipping of the letter is initialled "P." by Russell's name. This suggests that Patricia composed this letter on the CCNY case.
- "[Freedom of Speech and the CCNY Case]". *The Harvard Crimson*, 9 May 1940, p. 2. B&R C40.09. Typed carbon is dated 6 May 1940. An RA clipping of the letter is initialled "P." by Russell's name. This suggests that Patricia composed it.
- "Bertrand Russell Writes of India, Britain, and the U.S.A." *PM*, New York, 20 Oct. 1942, p. 15. Signed Bertrand and Patricia Russell. Also as "Americans and the Indian Problem", *The Manchester Guardian*, 29 Oct. 1942, p. 4. B&R C42.11.
- "*Juden Verboten*". *PM*, New York, 8 Dec. 1942, p. 21. Signed Mrs. Bertrand Russell, Malvern, PA. The Russells thought of joining a swimming club near Valley Forge, "but changed our minds when we found that it prided itself on the exclusion of Jews."
- "The International Significance of the Indian Problem". *Free World*, New York, 5 (Jan. 1943): 63-9. Signed Bertrand and Patricia Russell. B&R C43.01.
- "If You Fall in Love with a Married Man—". *Glamour*, New York, 9, no. 4 (Apr. 1943): 68, 94, 99-100. B&R C43.05. Sidney Hook claimed that BR told him that Patricia was the author (*Out of Step* [New York: Harper & Row, 1987], p. 377).
- "A Parent at Hospital". *The Lancet* 248 (19 May 1945): 642. Signed Patricia Russell. She wrote this initial c.1,600-word letter in March. It concerns Conrad's stay at a small hospital the night of 5 June 1944 because of a fever. An editorial appeared in the same issue supporting her case (pp. 631-2). Four letters to the editor followed on 2 June, pp. 704-5; below the last is a short note from her.
- "A Parent at Hospital". *The Lancet*

248 (16 June 1945): 770–1. Signed Patricia Russell. She replies to negative letters on 2 June by Clark Nicolson, Theodore Bliss and Malcolm Foster, and not to a positive one by “M. B. Cantab”. Her reply is followed by one by Dorothy Nicholls. One by Lindsey Batten followed on 30 June, and one by Constance Hardy on 7 July.

“The Case for Pasteurisation”. *The New Statesman and Nation* 30 (3 Nov. 1945): 294–5. Signed Patricia Russell.

“The British Zone”. *The Times*, London, 18 Nov. 1946, p. 7. Signed Patricia Russell (with eleven other

women, including Vera Brittain). On malnutrition and illness in the British zone of occupied Germany.

“History of Western Philosophy”. *International Affairs* 25 (Apr. 1949): 247. Signed Patricia Russell, Dorset House, Gloucester Place, N.W.1. Dated 7 Dec. 1948. Reply to H. J. Paton’s review in the Oct. 1948 issue. On Russell’s avoidance of selected editions in his reading for his book. Paton replied on pp. 247–8 and denied that he said Russell did not read Kant’s *Critique*.

#### MANUSCRIPTS, DIARY AND LETTERS

##### *Manuscripts:*

“Early Childhood Education” c.1939. RA1 220.017350. Some leaves are in Russell’s hand, but most are in Patricia’s. There are other examples of mixed hands, such as “C.D.”, their memoir of Crompton Llewelyn Davies (forthcoming in *Papers* 24).

“The Implications of the Russell Controversy”. Probable but untitled ms. of this speech to the Municipal League of Los Angeles, 4 May 1940. RA1 811.

Draft statements to the press on the CCNY case, 1940. RA1 811.

“The Problems of Democracy”. Research and some writing, 1941–42. Rand School lectures by Russell.

##### *Diary:*

Pocket appointments diary, 1932–33. RA 240.

##### *Letters:*

9 July 1937 to Utley, 12 and 23 July 1937 to G. B. Shaw, 16 Oct. 1949 and 24 Feb. 1951 to Utley. Published in Freda Utley, *Odyssey of a Liberal: Memoirs* (Washington, DC: Washington National P., 1970), pp. 160–2, 177–9.

To Gerald and Gamel Brenan, 1930s and 1940s. Copies in RA.

To and from dozens of other correspondents, 1930s and 1940s. c.900 letters. RA.

To Bertrand Russell, c.300 letters. RA.