

## SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTS FOR RUSSELL'S LOGIC, 1905–08

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A philosopher may develop ideas on his or her own or follow them in the works of others. Different kinds of documentary threads will develop. Historians of a subject may follow either kind. In the period of *Toward "Principia Mathematica"*, 1905–08, Russell engaged with developments in the writings of Poincaré, Haldane, Schiller and Berry, among others. What follows are remarks on supplementary documents (one being online) for a fuller study of logical and philosophical threads in the period.

**1** *Notes on two Revue de métaphysique articles by Poincaré*  
In 1905 Russell began a lengthy interaction with Henri Poincaré, although it wasn't his first interaction (see *Papers* 2: paper 25). He reviewed *Science and Hypothesis* twice (*Papers* 4: 32, 33) and responded to the author's objections (*Papers* 5: 24). Russell had to be wary of how he dealt with Poincaré. In prefacing him in 1914, he referred to his criticisms of mathematical logic, which, he said, were aimed primarily at himself. John G. Slater (*Papers* 6: 337) identifies the criticisms as the *three* articles titled "Les mathématiques et la logique" (1905–06).<sup>1</sup> It is well known that Russell replied (5: 9) to the third article, and less well known that Louis Couturat replied to the first and second articles earlier in 1906.<sup>2</sup> Mathematical induction was a prominent topic at issue with Poincaré. What is very little known is that, to assist his friend, Russell commented in English on specific passages in both articles (the second set being when the article was in

<sup>1</sup> *Revue de métaphysique et de morale* 13 (1905): 815–35; 14 (1906): 17–34, 294–317.

<sup>2</sup> LOUIS COUTURAT, "Pour la logistiquie (réponse à M. Poincaré)", *ibid.* 14: 208–50.

proof). A.-F. Schmid published the several leaves of notes in her edition of their correspondence (SCHMID 2: 560–2 [doc. 192] and 563–4 [doc. 193]). The second set includes a “Sketch of theory of finite and infinite”, with Russell remarking that it “is easily translated into the language of the new substitutional theory.”

### 2. *Russell’s advice on Couturat’s response to Poincaré*

It is little known as well that Russell further assisted Couturat in his reply by critiquing his *RMM* proofs (see SCHMID 2: 595–9 [docs. 205–6]). Mathematical induction was again involved. Russell later recalled their relationship: “Couturat was for a time a very ardent advocate of my ideas on mathematical logic, but he was not always very prudent, and in my long duel with Poincaré I found it sometimes something of a burden to have to defend Couturat as well as myself” (*Auto.* 1: 134). But on this occasion Russell called the article “admirable”. His later grouping of Poincaré’s *three* articles as “a fierce attack on me” (6: 51), his immediate study of the first two, and his assistance to Couturat, require having all of the related documents when working with Russell’s 1906 reply to Poincaré.

### 3. *A manuscript glossary of symbols and review notes*

On 6 July 1905 G. H. Hardy wrote Russell that he hadn’t fully mastered what Russell had just sent him because “my symbolism is three years out of date”. Following Russell’s letter of 2 July 1905 (RA1 710 .050761), but probably belonging to an otherwise lost response to the 6 July letter, is a leaf (p. 64a online) in Russell’s hand titled “Glossary of Definitions”. It consists of 25 symbolic definitions and is valuable for the study of the history of his symbolism and the ideas symbolized. In his copy of F. C. S. Schiller’s *Studies in Humanism* Russell filed four rich leaves of notes (RA 220.011230) that he had used in his review (5: 31). He took Schiller seriously on epistemology and ethics<sup>3</sup> in the period, though he later deprecated his book on formal logic (6: 24).

### 4. *Marginal notes in Russell’s copies of Mind and RMM*

Russell commented in the margins of Schiller’s “The Ambiguity of Truth” (*Mind* 15 [1906]) in his copy, now in the library of the Royal Institute of Philosophy. He cited the article twice in “The Nature of

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<sup>3</sup> See RUSSELL, “Rejoinder to Schiller’s ‘Choice’”, for the draft MS he kept in his copy.

Truth" (5: 15). Russell and R. B. Haldane had a running dispute over the foundations of mathematics in 1907–09. Russell's review (5: 29) of Haldane's 1907 paper to the Aristotelian Society was followed by Haldane's "The Logical Foundations of Mathematics" (*Mind* 18 [1909]). What is little known is that Russell commented in the margins of his copy (REC. ACQ. 978c). In his copy of "Les paradoxes de la logique" (5: app. 1) he noted a significant error. It's not in the text's critical English edition (5: 285: 8), only the French (5: 750: 24).

#### 5. Russell's annotated library

Several of the philosophical books that Russell reviewed in 1905–08 are still in his library and archives. Three have unreported marginalia that throw light on the reviews. One was Hugh MacColl's *Symbolic Logic and Its Applications* (reviewed twice in 5: 25). The book has verbal and linear marginalia. Haldane's pamphlet *The Methods of Modern Logic and the Conception of Infinity*, reviewed as 5: 29, has over a dozen linear marginalia. Schiller's *Studies in Humanism* has verbal and linear marginalia.

#### 6. Berry's unpublished manuscripts

*Papers* 5 reprints G. G. Berry's surviving letters to Russell in an appendix. The letters of 19 and 26 September and 8 October 1905 all refer to sending Russell statements of his positions (5: 776, 778–9). Two manuscripts in Berry's hand are extant in the Russell Archives.<sup>4</sup> Untitled, a five-leaf manuscript that seems to go with the letter of 26 September begins: "A 'classical' series is any well-ordered series in which each term is the class of its predecessors." A three-leaf manuscript begins: "The terms of an infinite well-ordered series can be put in 1, 1 correspondence with the ordered couples of the same term." These manuscripts could be as important as Berry's letters for studying his views and should be referred to, and indeed published.

#### 7. Minute books of the Aristotelian Society

Housed in the Fisher Library, University of Toronto, and part of the Walsh Philosophy Collection,<sup>5</sup> the minute books cover thirty meetings of the society between 6 November 1905 and 7 December

<sup>4</sup> BLACKWELL and SPADONI, *Second Archives*, "Addenda", p. 354; RA2 910, box II.69.

<sup>5</sup> See WALSH, *Philosophy & Bibliophily*, p. 98.

1908. Russell attended four. On 18 December 1905 he took part in the discussion of G. E. Moore's "The Nature and Reality of Objects of Perception" (whose work he still took notes on). After he read "The Nature of Truth" (5: 14) on 3 December 1906, Hodgson, Benecke, Carr, Goldsbrough, Shearman, Dunnville, Hawtrey and others took part in the discussion. When Haldane was newly president and read his paper (see §4), Russell proposed the vote of thanks and then critically reviewed the paper (5: 29; also see another review of Haldane in 9: 34). He attended another paper by Moore, "Prof. James' *Pragmatism*", on 16 January 1908, taking part in the discussion. Russell wrote much on James at the time (5: 16, 35, 6: 21–3, 25–6), although his essay (16) on the book was already finished when he heard Moore.

#### 8. *Preface to the French translation of The Philosophy of Leibniz*

Russell wrote a two-page "Préface de l'Édition Française" to the 1908 translation of *A Critical Exposition of the Philosophy of Leibniz*. He comments on new works (by Couturat) since his own book was published in 1900. Such prefaces, forewords and introductions, which were once saved for a possible critical edition of Russell's books, are now being included in the *Collected Papers*.

#### 9. *A Whitehead manuscript in Russell's hand*

In document 188, Schmid prints a manuscript in Russell's hand titled "Whitehead's Notation for Multiple Relations" (2: 550–3), which he supplied at Couturat's request. Russell had told him of it in the summer. Dated 22 November 1905, it is in English and logical symbols. Schmid provides a French translation of the English (2: 553–4).

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