LETTER FROM THE AUTHOR

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I have come across a review of my book Bertrand Russell’s Socio-Political Ideas in Russell 30 (2010): 90–3, and available on the web at http://dx.doi.org/10.15173/russell.v30i1.2183.

The book was written keeping in mind some facts that I found widespread in various corners of my country, i.e. India. Usually what is seen, so far as I am aware, in this part of the globe, is that people know or take an interest in Bertrand Russell’s contribution in the areas of analytic philosophy, epistemology, metaphysics, logic, etc. I have not found a significant number of persons of the mainly younger generation taking an interest in his socio-political philosophy. It is this fact that goaded me to write that book. This was stated in the very first page of the flap: “the present work is an attempt to bring various fabrics of Russell’s socio-political thought in one book.” Hence it was never claimed in the book that it was a scholarly book. The number of writings of Russell in this area was vast. Hence most of the time I tried to concentrate my attention on original sources. This was admitted on page x.

About grammatical and spelling mistakes the review will definitely help me.

On the point mentioned by the reviewer about the content of page 7, I would like to state that it has been clearly mentioned that “In his Autobiography Russell mentioned....” Hence I acknowledged that it was taken from his biography and the portion that was taken verbatim was given reference no. 3.

The acknowledgement of Ronald Jager’s point was made on page 89.

The reviewer did not find anything worthy in my book. With due respect to him I would like to state that a man of his stature may not find anything important in my venture. However, I got plenty of calls from many college teachers of my country who opined that it helped them immensely to introduce them to Russell’s contribution in this area. To my mind, it proves that I at least gave them a glimpse of Russell’s socio-political thought in miniature.

In the end I would like to record I am indebted to the reviewer, Peter Stone, for reviewing my book and publishing the review in a premier journal.