Obituary

IVOR GRATTAN-GUINNESS (1941–2014)

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Ivor Grattan-Guinness, who died 12 December 2014, was a friend of the Bertrand Russell Editorial Project from its earliest days and a member of its advisory editorial board. It was perhaps especially his publication, *Dear Russell—Dear Jourdain; a Commentary on Russell 's Logic, Based on his Correspondence with Philip Jourdain* (London: Duckworth; New York: Columbia U. P., 1977), that established him as someone who not only knew Russell's logical work and knew something of the vast, recently acquired collection of Russell's papers and library at McMaster, but also had experience in the scholarly editing world. While using the archives in preparing the book, Ivor took part in the Russell Centenary Conference in 1972 speaking on "The Mathematical Background to Russell's *Principles of Mathematics*" (*Russell*, no. 5 [1972]: 7–10). *Dear Russell* received a generally favorable review by Nicholas Griffin in this journal (nos. 37–40 [1980]: 75–86). The reviewer, one of the founding editors of the then forthcoming *Collected Papers of Bertrand Russell*, provided a detailed critique that reflected the high editorial standards then being developed for the edition. Not surprisingly, when editorial principles are at stake, the author offered a riposte (n.s. 1 [1981]: 69–70). There was no argument, however, that high standards needed to be maintained and Ivor took his editorial advisory duties seriously, diligently critiquing volumes in preparation that related to mathematics, logic or analytic philosophy, and, in his visits to McMaster, admonishing those higher university administrators that he deemed to be not working in the project's best interests.

In subsequent years Ivor published at least two dozen papers on Russell among his total of some 250 principal publications. His work in the history of mathematical logic is brought together in *The Search*

for Mathematical Roots, 1870–1940: Logic, Set Theories, and the Foundations of Mathematics from Cantor through Russell to Gödel (Princeton: Princeton U. P., 2000). Russell, as the subtitle suggests, is central, and the account draws much from Russell's *Collected Papers*. One of Ivor's novel contributions for a general history of modern logic, called attention to by Alasdair Urquhart in his review (*Russell* 21 [2001]: 91–4), is to emphasize the mathematical context of the origin of Russell's interest in logic. By the time Ivor's book appeared, this mathematical context had been made evident by the chronologically arranged volumes of the *Collected Papers* that dealt with this early period.

Born 23 June 1941 in Bakewell, Derbyshire, Ivor was a student at Huddersfield New College before entering Wadham College, Oxford, in 1959 to study mathematics. After receiving the BA degree in 1962, and after a brief stint working for EMI, Ivor obtained an appointment as Lecturer at Enfield College of Technology. At the same time, continuing with his education but not entirely happy with the curriculum in mathematics devoid of historical and cultural context that he had been exposed to thus far, he was attracted to part-time graduate studies in the mathematical logic programme at the London School of Economics. Part of the attraction was that this programme was within the school centred on Karl Popper, and thus Ivor's horizon would be broadened to include philosophy of science, though admittedly of a particular focus. Here too, however, there was a certain unhappiness: he was not inclined to become a disciple of Popper and, on a personal level, he did not get along with Imre Lakatos, his would-be thesis supervisor. It was only in later years that Ivor renewed his connection with Popper and acknowledged that Popper's philosophy had been a major influence on him as an historian of mathematics. Even as Ivor took issue with some aspects of the way history of science was treated in Popperian philosophy, he appreciated that it was, uncommonly among philosophies of science of the time, one that was logically tied to the rigorous treatment of history and historiography of science.

Ivor obtained the MSC (Econ) degree in Philosophy of Science from the University of London in 1966. One outcome of the work he did was his first book, *The Development of the Foundations of Mathematical Analysis from Euler to Riemann* (Cambridge, Mass.: M.I.T. P., 1970). He then found his way to a more congenial relationship with Jerome Ravetz as external supervisor of a PHD degree in History of Mathematics from the University of London, which he was awarded

in 1969. The two collaborated on Ivor's second book, *Joseph Fourier 1768–1830; a Survey of his Life and Work, Based on a Critical Edition of his Monograph on the Propagation of Heat, Presented to the Institut de France in 1807* (Cambridge, Mass.: M.I.T. P., 1972).

In 1974 Ivor took up the editorship of the general history of science journal *Annals of Science,* reviving what had been a near-dying serial. Before passing on that role to others in 1981, he founded *History and Philosophy of Logic* in 1979, which has become the leading journal in the field. He continued as editor until 1992 but stayed as book reviews editor and a member of the editorial board until his death. Ivor's first major work was the three-volume *Convolutions in French Mathematics, 1800–1840: From the Calculus and Mechanics to Mathematical Analysis and Mathematical Physics* (Basel: Birkhäuser; Berlin: Deutscher Verlag der Wissenschaften, 1990; available today as an e-book). Years of research in Parisian archives resulted in what is generally regarded as the definitive introduction to the full range of early nineteenth century French mathematical physics.

Ivor had at least a fair mastery of German, Spanish, Italian, Russian, and French and used these on occasion in talks he was invited to give around the world—more than 500 according to a tally that he kept. Thanks to the network of connections he developed, he had a wide range of experts to call on for his large, collaborative projects. The two-volume *Companion Encyclopedia of the History and Philosophy of the Mathematical Sciences* (London: Routledge, 1994) reflected his desire to bring so-called pure and applied mathematics together. He assembled 132 contributors, in addition to himself, from eighteen countries, producing all together 176 articles. Another edition he headed is *Landmark Writings in Western Mathematics 1640–1940* (Amsterdam: Elsevier, 2005) where, with the aid of 65 contributors, for each of 89 "landmarks", rather than reprints or excerpts, the volume provides publication history, author's career, content summary, principal features, and impact. *The Fontana History of the Mathematical Sciences: the Rainbow of Mathematics* (London: Fontana, 1997; New York: Norton, 1998, as *The Norton History*) was a solo production and is dedicated to Karl Popper. As with the *Encyclopedia*, which it draws on extensively, the work gives due weight to physical applications of mathematics as a source of mathematical progress. It differs further from most previous general histories in being more historical, that is, rather than just explaining how the mathematics of today came about,

attention is given to a more complete picture of what happened in the past.

Other topics in which he took a substantial interest included ufology, psychical research, numerological aspects of Freemasonry and of the music of Mozart, as well as gematria and other numerically based aspects of Bible study and Christianity and their possible links to astrology. It is perhaps no coincidence that these are topics that test the boundary between science and pseudoscience that was the subject of Popper's work on the logic of scientific reasoning. A comprehensive bibliography of all Ivor's published writings—books, articles, reviews—is now underway and will come to over 1,400 items.

He met his future wife, Enid Neville, as a fellow BBC choir member, and they married in 1965. She aided in archival research, typed and helped proof papers and letters, at least until Ivor mastered computer technology sufficiently to do almost all of his own work on a series of Apple computers. The two came to know Katharine Tait, Russell's daughter, and visited her at her home in Cornwall in the house where she grew up.

Ivor stayed at Enfield College of Technology as that institution and his department passed through several stages, eventually transformed into a part of Middlesex University. Ivor's own title was likewise elevated in 1994 to Professor of the History of Mathematics and Logic. He had nine doctoral students and retired in 2002. In 2009 he received the Kenneth O. May Prize and Medal from the International Commission for the History of Mathematics for "lifetime scholarly achievement and commitment to the field", and in 2010 he was elected to honorary membership in the Bertrand Russell Society.

In his study at home he was usually under the supervision of a cat or two, constant members of the Grattan-Guinness household. Music from his extensive collection of recordings was typically an accompaniment as he worked. At the celebration of life event in his remembrance, held 13 January 2015, the music selections, requested by Ivor, reflected his wide tastes: Count Basie, Benjamin Britten, Mozart, Richard Strauss, and finally, to see the guests out, the Oscar Peterson trio and "Just One of Those Things".

His *Nachlass* has been deposited with the Archives of American Mathematics at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin.