

TWO DAYS IN THE DICTATION OF BERTRAND RUSSELL

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An underused resource of the Bertrand Russell Archives is class RAI 740, Dictation. This class contains Russell's dictated correspondence in the hand of his wife and secretary, Edith, from 1952 to 1969. I have chosen two days' worth of replies to illustrate the richness of this resource. The days are 28 April and 24 May 1952. The variety of topics is remarkable. Russell's correspondents were a source of important political and other information to him, and he took pains to reply extensively to some of them. He did write more letters on the two days selected than on average days, but not a great many more. There are eleven the first day and a dozen the second. He may also have written some in his own hand, as was his wont with intimates well into the last year of his life.

The numbering and the headings are copied from the dictation manuscripts. The paragraphing and other formal features might have changed when Edith Finch (as she was at the time) typed the letters, and Russell may have made alterations and additions when he signed them. Many letters that Russell answered in the second day of dictation concerned his eightieth birthday and are in a special file (RAI 723). BRACERS was used to find most of the incoming letters. Some, as Edith's notes indicate, were to be discarded; they are not in the Russell Archives. Later she retained practically everything.

It should be remembered that in foreign policy in 1952 Russell was still very much pro-American, but had begun to raise his voice against McCarthyism and similar excesses, as his publications at the time attest. Some of the letters are in reply to conservative correspondents from America. Responses to one, Wilbur Burton, appear on both days.

[DICTATION OF 28 APRIL 1952]

1 BUMPUS¹ 3RD PERSON2 ATHENIANS²Dear Sir,³

Your letter of April 11 has only just reached me, as I was abroad.⁴ I have the strongest sympathy with the aims that you set out in your letter, and I hope that the association and its journal will have great success. I have been for very many years associated with the corresponding association in England⁵ where I think that work of this sort is just as necessary as in your country. I have not, at the moment, anything suitable for publication in your journal but I will bear you in mind and shall hope to have something later on.⁶ With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully

¹ The bookselling firm of John and Edward Bumpus Ltd., 477 Oxford St., London W1. Russell dealt usually with the Managing Director, J. G. Wilson. He had recently supplied Russell with a missing Vol. III of the Oxford Plato, and was ordering the Kinsey Report for him. In 1952 the only volume yet published was *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*.

² "Athenians" was Russell's term to remind himself not to forget a letter—in this case, not to forget to send something to the journal in question.

³ S. Ramanathan, editor of the *Indian Rationalist*, who published (B&R C52.15) this letter in its first issue (July 1952). His letter to Russell is in RA1 410.

⁴ BRACERS shows no letters written by Russell between 8 and 26 April 1952. Let me record here how difficult it is to believe that Russell went nearly three weeks in his adult life without writing a letter. The only documentation I know of for the absence is this passage in *Auto*, 3: 67: "In the spring of 'fifty-two we [Edith Finch and Russell] visited Greece where we spent some time in Athens and then ten days or so driving through the Peloponnesus."

⁵ The Rationalist Press Association.

⁶ The next known appearance by Russell in the *Indian Rationalist* is not until 1956, when another message is published (B&R C56.21).

3

Dear Mrs. Yamakawa,⁷

I am just back from abroad and have only now received your letter of April 13. I shall be happy to see you at any time convenient to us both. If you could come to lunch some day, that is what I should like best. Would you be so kind as to ring me up and then we can fix a time. Please remember me to Mr. Yamamoto when you see him.

Yours sincerely

4 AIR MAIL

Dear Mr. Yamamoto,⁸

I was glad to hear from you⁹ and sorry to learn of the ban so foolishly imposed upon you. I cannot at the moment do an article for *Kaizo*, but perhaps portions of my "New Hopes"¹⁰ would suit you. For this, however, it would be necessary to get permission from Allen & Unwin, 40 Museum St. WC1.

Yours sincerely

5 THROW AWAY

Dear Mr. Roseliep,¹¹

I am sorry that I cannot give you any help as I have no letters from

⁷ Kikue Yamakawa, whose letter to Russell is filed at RA2 720.132583a.

⁸ Sanehito Yamamoto was editor of the Tokyo socialist magazine, *Kaizo*, when Russell visited China and Japan in 1920–21. He published many articles in *Kaizo* in the 1920s.

⁹ See his letter to Russell of 9 November 1951 (RA2 710.112597a). He tells Russell of his political activity (and misfortunes) following the end of World War II, mentions that he saw Russell in Los Angeles (probably 1939–40), and introduces Mrs. Yamakawa.

¹⁰ *New Hopes for a Changing World*, published in September 1951.

¹¹ Unidentified.

my brother¹² to Lionel Johnson¹³ or from Lionel Johnson to my brother. I have never seen the volume of Winchester letters¹⁴ to which you allude. My brother used to speak of Lionel Johnson occasionally but I never met him, and whatever papers there may have been have not come into my hands.¹⁵

Yours very sincerely

6 THROW AWAY

Dear Mr. Catalano,¹⁶

I am sorry that I have nothing of interest to say on the matter about which you write to me. I did once publish an article called "Architecture and Social Questions"¹⁷ which appeared in a volume of collected essays called *In Praise of Idleness*, but I do not know whether this would contain anything that you would think relevant.

Yours sincerely

7

Dear Dr. Ratner,¹⁸

I am sorry that pressure of work makes it quite impossible for me, at the present time, to write such a paper as you suggest. At the same time I have every desire to add my good wishes and congratulations to Pro-

¹² John Francis Stanley, 2nd Earl Russell (1865–1931).

¹³ Lionel Pigot Johnson (1867–1902), poet and critic.

¹⁴ *Some Winchester Letters of Lionel Johnson* (London: Allen & Unwin, 1919). The editor is anonymous, but Frank Russell's correspondence with the publisher identifies him as the editor (see REC. ACQ. 70, Box 3).

¹⁵ Russell's papers do contain a number of his brother's files, and among them are several letters from Johnson.

¹⁶ Unidentified.

¹⁷ Originally published as "If I Were Dictator of Housing—" (B&R C33.60).

¹⁸ Sidney Ratner (b. 1908) wrote on democracy and taxation. In a later letter he reminds Russell that he attended the New York dinner-party held in honour of Russell's 70th birthday, in 1942. Several letters between Russell and Ratner are extant.

fessor Kallen¹⁹ on his seventieth birthday. I hope the other people whom you are writing to contribute to your volume²⁰ will be more cooperative than I can be. Thank you for your kind wishes,

Yours sincerely

8 KEEP A COPY

Dear Mr. Brennan,²¹

Thank you for your letter of March 26. I will admit at once that the 2 statements you quote are somewhat too sweeping.²² I ought to have confined them to the right wing of the Republican party. I do not find anything to object to in Eisenhower's views on international affairs, and if he becomes President,²³ I think he will shape American policy wisely, but at the time of writing the contest between him and Taft²⁴ remains undecided.

There are some points in your letter which call for comment. In the first place I have never been a Marxian.²⁵ My very first book,²⁶ published in 1896, contained a vigorous attack on Marx, and I have never since mentioned him except critically.

As to American opinion in general, I found that you in common with other people who live in Cambridge, Mass., are scarcely aware of opin-

¹⁹ Horace M. Kallen had co-edited with John Dewey *The Bertrand Russell Case* (New York: Viking P., 1941).

²⁰ *Vision and Action: Essays in Honor of Horace M. Kallen on His 70th Birthday*, ed. Sidney Ratner (New Brunswick: Rutgers U.P., 1953).

²¹ Donald G. Brennan's letter is filed in RA1 720. Russell's reply has been published in *BRA* 2: 48–9. A copy was kept at RA2 340.184042. Brennan identified himself as a low income student at MIT with a great interest in Russell's writings but a Republican.

²² The two statements are: "The Republican Party is so ardently nationalist that it has to vilify all other nations, even those that are most necessary to the success of American policy" and "The Republicans apparently feel that if American could only prosper by causing other nations to prosper, then it would be better to fail" (*NHCW*, pp. 69, 70).

²³ Dwight D. Eisenhower, President of the United States, 1953–61.

²⁴ In a close race Robert A. Taft (1889–1953) lost the Republican Party nomination to Eisenhower. Taft represented isolationism.

²⁵ Brennan had described Russell as "the world's leading Marxian socialist".

²⁶ *German Social Democracy* (London: Longmans, Green, 1896).

ion in less enlightened parts of America. The phrase which I quoted about yapping Yahoos was typical of most newspapers outside New York, Boston and Washington. You seem to think that the point of view embodied in such phrases is no more influential in America than the point of view of Bevan²⁷ in this country. In this I am afraid that you are quite mistaken. In travelling about America I have found that those who hold views similar to those which you express dare not give utterance to them except in the depths of the most inviolable privacy. I have found almost all the newspapers that I have seen in America spreading lies about the condition of England under the Socialist government.²⁸ I have found these lies believed by almost everybody. Kind friends have sent me food parcels under the impression that I am starving. When I inform people who think themselves enlightened that British wage earners and their children have been better nourished in recent years than ever before, I am thought to be engaging in mendacious propaganda. My American friends, with few exceptions, use "democracy" as synonymous with "capitalism" and when I say that England is a democracy they refuse to admit it, not because of the King and the House of Lords but because the undesirable activities of plutocrats are somewhat curbed.

I have no wish to promote a conflict between British socialism and American capitalism, but American capitalism has been promoting such a conflict by dishonest and unscrupulous methods from which it results that the British can only co-operate with America as slaves and not as free men. If Anglo-American co-operation is to continue, as I most profoundly hope that it will, it is essential that Americans should tolerate an internal economic policy in this country which they do not wish to see adopted in the United States.

I think if you were to live for some time in any Middle Western State or in California, you would realize that you have been living hitherto in a little island of enlightenment by no means typical of your country.

Yours very sincerely

²⁷ Aneurin Bevan (1897–1960), leader of the left wing of the Labour Party, resigned as Minister of Health in April 1951 in protest against the rearmament programme.

²⁸ The Labour Party had governed in 1945–51. Churchill's Conservatives had regained power in the October 1951 general election.

Dear Mr. Burton,²⁹

Your letter of April 8 has only just reached me owing to my having been abroad. I remember perfectly meeting you at Freda Utley's,³⁰ and I remember disagreeing with you probably more vigorously than we should disagree now. I have read your letter carefully, some of it twice over. I have found it very interesting and there is a good deal in it with which I am in agreement. I am glad to know all that you tell me about Chamberlin.³¹ I will not argue with you about the second World War³² as it would require a volume. I should, however, like to say in regard to what I am supposed to have said in 1947³³ about an atomic attack on Russia that I did not say what I was reported to have said. Only one reporter was present and he was a communist.³⁴ He chose to mis-report me deliberately and, although I did everything possible to correct the consequent misapprehension, I could not do so in left wing circles because everybody in those circles derived such pleasure from thinking ill of me. Your isolationism—for, though you disclaim isola-

²⁹ Wilbur Burton, of Winchester, Indiana. He was a journalist, libertarian, and a conscientious objector in World War II. His letter is at RA1 710.047925, and a typed copy of Russell's reply is at RA2 340.184043. Russell's response to Burton's reply to this letter is on p. 47. For more on Burton, see Freda Utley's *Odyssey of a Liberal* (Washington: Washington National P., 1970).

Burton's letter is a sustained tirade against internationalism in American politics.

³⁰ Utley was an ex-Communist and an old friend of Russell's, who admired her *Japan's Feet of Clay* and *Lost Illusion*. He blurbed and reviewed the former (B&R Gg36.01 and C36.30) and introduced the latter (B&R B93).

³¹ William Henry Chamberlin (1897–1969), conservative American author and journalist. Russell was recently in public correspondence with him over Russell's article "Democracy and the Teachers" (B&R C51.38); see also "Bertrand Russell and the U.S.A." (C52.01, C52.04).

³² Russell desired US intervention, which Burton regarded as "the Roosevelt War".

³³ Burton wrote in his letter: "You did—unless I read a misquotation from you—advocate in 1947 an immediate atomic bomb attack on Russia if she would not bow to an Anglo-American ultimatum to join in a one-world government...."

³⁴ Russell has conflated the misreporting by J. P. Jardi in November 1948 of his speech to Westminster School, "Atomic Energy and the Future of Europe", with possibly his letter to Walter Marseille of May 1948. See "Bertrand Russell and Preventive War" by Ray Perkins, Jr., *Russell*, n.s. 14 (1994): 135–53.

tionism, your view that America should only bother with the Western hemisphere is isolationist, though you may not like to have it so described—seems to me technically impossible in this age. I do not see how it can be right for each of a group of nations to defend its own territory fruitlessly, but wrong for them all to defend their total territory victoriously, and that is what is logically implied in isolationism.

I will not deny that in 1940–42 I was in some degree affected by war hysteria.³⁵ You will find my present views in my last book, “New Hopes for a Changing World”. I can assure you that I am giving weight to the things that you say in your letter and that several of your points have struck me as important.

Yours sincerely

10

Dear Mr. Freeman,³⁶

Thank you for your letter of April 2 which has only just come into my hands as I have been abroad. I am sorry to say there is no possibility of my coming to America any time within the next twelve months and I must therefore decline the invitation which you transmit.

Yours sincerely

11

Dear Mrs. Bullard,³⁷

Thank you for sending me your novel.³⁸ I have read most of it and

³⁵ It is not known quite how Russell was affected by war hysteria, but anxiety over Britain's possible defeat would have contributed.

³⁶ Unidentified. BRACERS cannot locate this correspondent in the Russell Archives.

³⁷ In response to Margaret Bullard's letter of 10 April 1952 (RA1 710). She identifies herself as married to the Director of the National Physical Laboratory, Teddington.

³⁸ Probably *A Perch in Paradise*, published in London by Hamish Hamilton on 21 March 1952. Bullard also wrote *Wedlock's the Devil* (1951) and *Love Goes West* (1953). In her letter Bullard tells Russell that he is mentioned (with respect) in the novel.

shall probably finish it tonight as I have the bad habit of reading novels in bed. If Cambridge is as you represent it, it must have become more amusing since I was an undergraduate, which was in the early '90's. In those days we were all strictly celibate, which cannot be said of your characters. I am finding your novel amusing and pleasant reading and am hoping that it gives a true picture of Cambridge life.

Yours sincerely

12

Dear Mr. Callahan,³⁹

Thank you for your interesting letter of April 2. I see that some of your problems are by no means easy. I cannot quite make out whether your natural bent is most towards physics or most towards mathematics. I think, so far as work is concerned, the most important factor is one's spontaneous interest and that among things that it is reputable to work at one should select what one enjoys rather than what one conceives to be of most social utility. Nobody does good work of an intellectual or artistic sort unless he enjoys it. You say you have been getting bad grades lately and I should suppose that this is due, at least in part, to emotional disturbances. It is important not to let these interfere with work, especially while one is young. Given a certain amount of self-control they can fit in without damage.

I very much agree with what you say about the unfortunate way in which intellectuals in America are made bitter by non-recognition. America is a paradise for the executive type but is hell for the intellectual.

The situation you describe with Miss Crawford must be painful for you. I am sure your wisest course is not to pursue her. If she is really fond of you, this will make her more pliant; if not, there is nothing doing.

Yours sincerely

³⁹ Gene Callahan, whose long letter is at RA2 720.122107a.

[DICTATION OF 24 MAY 1952]

I

Dear Unwin,⁴⁰

Thank you for your letter of May 23 which crossed one from me. I am very glad of what you tell me about the arrangements concerning *The Impact of Science on Society*.⁴¹ It all sounds most satisfactory.

The writer who said⁴² that I plan to write a major work in a year or two confused intuition with prophecy. I have not at the moment any major work in view and I think all that I said was that past experience led me to suppose I should write another book presently. The stories to which you allude are another matter. I have so far written three⁴³ of lengths 10000 10000 and 18000. They are not intended to be serious or to have any sort of a moral but merely to amuse. One of them, which *might* be called "Satan in the Suburbs" or, alternatively, "Mephistophilis in Mortlake" should really, I think be called "Horrors Manufactured Here" as there is nothing supernatural about it. If you like, I will send you the three stories. I have others in my head that I may with luck be able to do this summer.

The article "On Denoting" appeared in *Mind* for Oct. 1905. It is, I suppose, the most important thing I have done in philosophy. It has never been reprinted⁴⁴ and I do not even have an offprint of it. The

⁴⁰ Sir Stanley Unwin, Russell's British publisher for most of his life as a writer. Unwin's letter is in RA1 410.

⁴¹ The arrangements were that Simon and Schuster would take over the existing stock of *Impact* from Columbia University Press when the former's expanded edition appeared in 1953, and destroy it. In the meantime, Columbia would continue to sell its edition, of which Unwin says 775 copies remained.

⁴² In "Our London Correspondent", the writer "Private Wire" had reported that Russell "plans to write another major work in a year or two, spending the interval in reflection" (*Manchester Guardian*, 17 May 1952, p. 6).

⁴³ The short stories composed by this time included "Satan in the Suburbs" and "The Corsican Ordeal of Miss X" (already published as B&R C51.42).

⁴⁴ Actually, there had been one reprint of "On Denoting" by this time: in Herbert Feigl and Wilfrid Sellars, eds., *Readings in Philosophical Analysis* (New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1949). The editors state in a note that "On Denoting" is reprinted with "the kind permission of the author" (p. 103n.). There is a letter from Russell to Stanley

difficulty about reprinting it is that it would not go well in a book of essays on general subjects and that since *Mysticism and Logic* my books of collected essays have not been technical. I should however, like to have it reprinted if a convenient opportunity could be found.⁴⁵

Thank you for your kind congratulations.

2

Dear Mr. Burton,⁴⁶

Thank you for your letter of May 13. I think you present the best case possible for what I still must call isolationism and in view of the uncertainty of all human affairs I will not assert dogmatically that you are mistaken. As I read you I find myself carried along and entering into your mood. I suppose one ground of difference between us must be that I think Russia bent on world dominion⁴⁷ and you do not. I have not at the moment the necessary leisure for taking up your arguments one by one, but I will bear them in mind.

Yours sincerely

Unwin of 9 August 1947 agreeing to his "asking \$25 from H. Feigl [*sic*] and W. Sellars for the permission they want" (RA3 Rec. Acq. 70). On looking up the letter from Unwin that Russell is answering, however, one finds that the permission sought is for "The Validity of Inference", a chapter from *An Outline of Philosophy* (letter of 6 Aug. 1947). And yet "On Denoting" was the only selection from Russell to be reprinted in the volume. When Unwin told him in June 1953 that there was a volume that reprinted "On Denoting", Russell supposed that he must have given permission.

⁴⁵ Unwin had picked up on Stuart Hampshire's praise of "On Denoting" in "Bertrand Russell: His Contribution to Philosophy", *The Manchester Guardian*, 17 May 1952, p. 6. An opportunity soon presented itself in Robert C. Marsh's suggestion of a volume of Russell's technical essays, published in 1956 as *Logic and Knowledge*. See Marsh's portrait of Russell from memory (*Russell*, this issue, pp. 21-35).

⁴⁶ Wilbur Burton's letter is at RA1 710.047926. He strives again to put the case for American isolationism.

⁴⁷ Russell held this view from shortly after World War II until shortly after the death of Stalin in 1953.

3 THROW AWAY

Dear Miss Schwartzman,⁴⁸

It would take me a long time to answer your letter fully, but I think you will find what I should wish to say in the introductory chapter of my *History of Western Philosophy*.

Yours truly

4 THROW AWAY

Dear Madam,⁴⁹

I cannot answer your questions with precision. The law against marrying one's deceased wife's sister is in the Bible⁵⁰ and was the law of all Christian countries. It was repealed in England about fifty years ago, but I do not know the exact date.⁵¹

Yours truly

5 KEEP DIERICH⁵²

Dear Sir,

What you tell me in your letter of May 17 is interesting. I shall be happy to receive your dissertation, though it may be some time before I have the leisure to read it.

Yours truly

⁴⁸ Unidentified.

⁴⁹ Unidentified.

⁵⁰ Leviticus xx: 21. Russell notes to an unnamed correspondent that "the contrary command is in Deuteronomy xxv: 5" (RA1 750, 23 Dec. 1953).

⁵¹ The Deceased Wife's Sister's Act was passed in 1907.

⁵² Unidentified. His letter is not preserved in the Russell Archives.

6

My dear Brailsford,⁵³

Thank you for your letter of May 19. I owe much to you. Your review⁵⁴ of my *Social Reconstruction* encouraged me more than any other at a time when I very much needed encouragement. I caused fury in Cambridge by quoting from your *War of Steel and Gold*⁵⁵ a passage showing how much parsons and such were making out of armaments.⁵⁶ The fury was of a sort which I was glad to cause. I am very glad you have liked my recent broadcasts. Please convey my thanks to Mrs. Brailsford as well as to yourself.

Yours ever,

7 KEEP

Dear Miss Turner,⁵⁷

Thank you for sending me Mrs. Bartlett's poem. I am glad that anybody has such nice feelings about me and it is surprising that she can find sufficient leisure and detachment in the midst of such arduous domestic duties.

Yours very truly

⁵³ Henry Noel Brailsford (1873–1958), lecturer, political activist (with the Union of Democratic Control) and journalist. See *Papers 13* for further identification. His letter (at RA1 710.047593) reveals that Russell and he became acquainted during the Boer War.

⁵⁴ Brailsford's review of *Principles of Social Reconstruction*, despite its importance, cannot be traced.

⁵⁵ Published in 1914.

⁵⁶ The speech may have been on "Causes of the War". The *Cambridge Daily News*, 30 Aug. 1915, reported that Russell included the topic of armament firms (see the reprint in *Papers 13*, App. III).

⁵⁷ Edith Turner, whose letter is dated 18 May 1952 (RA1 723). The poem she enclosed is no longer with the letter.

8 KEEP

Dear Mr. Fuller,⁵⁸

Thank you very much for your letter which it was very encouraging to get. I remember your getting into trouble for repeating Bodkin's words.⁵⁹ At the time, we were all indignant because Bodkin was not also put in goal. I hope you are right that I had some share in procuring your release.

Yours sincerely

9

Dear Mr. Davies,⁶⁰

Thank you for your very nice letter. I well remember my visit to Merthyr Tydfil⁶¹ and I also remember your uncle⁶² whose conversation I enjoyed. I have written an autobiography but it will not be published till I am dead so I cannot tell you the exact date.⁶³

Yours sincerely

10

⁵⁸ Edward Fuller, who wrote Russell on 18 May 1952 (RA1 723) on the letterhead of the Save the Children Fund. His letter is excerpted in *Papers* 13: lii. Russell helped free him from "the shackles of conventional Christianity", but he has not followed Russell in his "recession from what we used to call Pacifism."

⁵⁹ Archibald Bodkin (1862-1957), later Director of Public Prosecutions, was the prosecutor of Russell in the Everett leaflet case (June 1916). Bodkin repeated Russell's unlawful words in court. The transcript of the proceedings, *Rex vs. Bertrand Russell*, was confiscated because it quoted Bodkin.

⁶⁰ Austin Davies, who wrote Russell on 17 May 1952 (RA1 723).

⁶¹ In July 1916.

⁶² Harry Davies, who was with the No-Conscription Fellowship (see *Papers* 14: 494) and is mentioned in Russell's 1916 correspondence with Lady Ottoline Morrell. (Thanks to Nicholas Griffin for this information.)

⁶³ Russell finally relented in spring 1966 and saw his *Autobiography* published in 1967-69.

Dear Milford,⁶⁴

Thank you for your letter. You ask whether I've got anywhere as regards to the problems of existence. I know the meaning of "existence". It's defined in Chapter 14 of *Principia Mathematica*.⁶⁵ Existence, not in quotes, has no meaning and the question "has it a meaning?" is meaningless.

The newspapers got the matter a little wrong about the use of my title. Like Lord Trent I avoid it for trade purposes as my old name has a certain monetary value. Except for trade purposes, I use my title.

I see no reason whatsoever to believe in immortality. I think that a person is an organization like a cricket club and that one might just as well expect a cricket club to go to heaven when it is dissolved as expect the same thing about oneself.⁶⁶

Yours ever

II TO PERCY POPKIN⁶⁷

Dear Mr. Popkin,

Is the enclosed demand for money O.K. and, if so, shall I send you a cheque? Would you be so kind as to fill in the enclosed questionnaire⁶⁸ and return it to me.

Yours sincerely

⁶⁴ Laurence Philipps, Lord Milford, wrote Russell on 19 May 1952 (RA1 710). He seems to have known Russell for a very long time, although he did not matriculate from Cambridge in the years Russell studied there. His tone is often rude. At one point he indirectly calls Russell "the ugliest man they [the BBC] know".

⁶⁵ I.e. *14, Descriptions.

⁶⁶ Milford had written that "I feel that my ego is something permanent that could not possibly be created or destroyed and that it has only borrowed its present body as a temporary machine now nearly worn out—what next?"

⁶⁷ Popkin was Russell's tax accountant from at least 1947 to the late 1950s, when he was succeeded by H. E. Madams, who in 1966 was succeeded by Anton Felton. Popkin's reply of 26 May 1952 to this letter is at RA2 751.100021.

⁶⁸ Probably for Inland Revenue.

12

Dear Sirs,⁶⁹

Thank you for your letter of May 12 and for the enclosed manifesto. I have every sympathy with your objects, but it is quite impossible for me to do an article for you.

Yours faithfully

13

Dear Miss Howell Smith,⁷⁰

Thank you for your entertaining letter. I am sorry to have been the innocent cause of so much boredom. Let us hope it will die down now that my 80th birthday is passed. With profound commiseration,

Yours faithfully

⁶⁹ Unidentified. Although there is no note that the letter should be discarded, a BRACERS search on letters of the requisite date did not turn it up.

⁷⁰ Julia Howell Smith, who wrote Russell on 19 May 1952 (RA1 723).