A.J. Ayer on Russell: a secondary bibliography

by Kenneth Blackwell

POSSIBLY PARTLY BECAUSE of the praise Russell bestowed on him, Ayer was widely regarded by the British media as *the* academic authority on Russell. Indeed, his viewpoint and style were unique. While others were prepared to undertake archival research, Ayer relied on his close contact with Russell himself and his primary works. However, as his moderation of the panel discussion published in 1988 shows, he was quite willing to entertain others' views in Russell studies and change his mind if he saw fit.

This bibliography does not claim to be complete. There are probably more reviews of Russell's books, and almost certainly more letters to the editor on controversies concerning Russell. One source for the items below was the bibliography in *Perception and Identity: Essays Presented to A.J. Ayer with His Replies to Them* (London: Macmillan, 1979). However, it lists a review of the first volume of Russell's *Autobiography* in *Encounter*, but no review of it appeared there. A volume in The Library of Living Philosophers was planned for Ayer and may reveal more items.

Ayer was an original member of the Advisory Editorial Board of *The Collected Papers of Bertrand Russell*.

The Bertrand Russell Archives
McMaster University Library

1936

"The Analytic Movement in Contemporary British Philosophy". In *Actes du congrès international de philosophie scientifique* (Paris: Hermann, 1936), pp. 53–9.

1938

"On the Scope of Empirical Knowledge" [rejoinder to Russell's "The Limits of Empiricism"]. *Erkenntnis*, 7 (1938): 267–74.

1941

"Bertrand Russell on Meaning and Truth" [review of *An Inquiry into Meaning and Truth*]. *Nature*, 148 (23 Aug. 1941): 206–7.

1946

"Contemporary British Philosophers". *The Listener*, 38 (5 Dec. 1946): 787–8. A third of the article is on Russell.

1956

"The Philosophy of Bertrand Russell" [review of *Logic and Knowledge*]. *The Observer*, Lon., 18 Nov. 1956, p. 10.

1957

"The Freedom of Genius" [review of Alan Wood, *Bertrand Russell*]. *The Spectator*, London, 198 (31 May 1957): 722, 724.

1959

"The Philosophy of Bertrand Russell" [review of *My Philosophical Development*]. *The Spectator*, 202 (15 May 1959): 703.

1960

"Russell, Bertrand Arthur William". In J.O. Urmson, ed., *The Concise Encyclopedia of Western Philosophy and Philosophers* (London: Hutchinson; New York: Hawthorn Books, 1960), pp. 345–9; 2nd ed. (London: Hutchinson, 1975), pp. 251–5.

1962

[Tribute]. In *Into the 10th Decade: Tribute to Bertrand Russell* ([London: no pub., [1962]), p. [17].

1967

"An Appraisal of Bertrand Russell's Philosophy". In Ralph Schoenman, ed., *Bertrand Russell: Philosopher of the Century* (London: Allen & Unwin; Boston: Atlantic–Little, Brown, 1967), pp. 167–78. Reprinted in D.F. Pears, ed., *Bertrand Russell: a Collection of Critical Essays* (Garden City, N.Y.: Anchor/Doubleday, 1972), pp. 6–22.

1968

"Bertrand Russell in His Prime" [review of *The Autobiography of Bertrand Russell*, Vol. II: *1914–44*]. *The Spectator*, 220 (10 May 1968): 632.

1970

"Russell the Philosopher" [obit.]. *New Statesman*, 79 (6 Feb. 1970): 181, 183.

1971

Russell and Moore: the Analytical Heritage (London: Macmillan; Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard, 1971). Pp. xii, 254.

1972

Bertrand Russell (Modern Masters series; London: Fontana, 1972 [152 pp.]; New York: Viking Press, 1972 [xiv, 168 pp.]; Chicago: U. of Chicago P., 1988 [viii, 168 pp.]).

"Bertrand Russell: the Passion inside the Sceptic". *The Evening Standard*, London, 18 May 1972, p. 24.

"Bertrand Russell as a Philosopher", *Proceedings of the British Academy*, 58 (1972): 127–51. Reprinted as a pamphlet from the *Proceedings*. Ayer gave this lecture several times, including once in S. America and once at McMaster at the Russell Centenary Celebrations, after which it appeared in *Russell in Review*, ed. J.E. Thomas and K. Blackwell (Toronto: Samuel Stevens, Hakkert, 1976), pp. 177–202.

1975

"Bertrand Russell" [letter to the ed. re Rosemary Dinnage's review of R.W. Clark's *Life of Bertrand Russell* the previous week]. *The Times Literary Supplement*, 7 Nov. 1975, p. 1,332.

1979

"Bertrand Russell Memorial" [letter to the ed. signed by 8 others]. *T.L.S.*, 30 Nov. 1979, p. 66. Also in *The Times Educational Sup.*, 11 Jan. 1980, p. 15.

1982

Philosophy in the Twentieth Century (London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson; New York: Random House, 1982; New York: Vintage Books, 1984). Half of Chap. II, "The Revolt from Hegel", concerns Russell.

1984

[Review of *Theory of Knowledge*, Vol. 7 of *Collected Papers*]. *T.L.S.*, 7 Dec. 1984, p. 1,404.

1985

"Mathematics, Truth and Logic" [review of C.W. Kilmister, *Russell*]. *T.L.S.*, 16 Aug. 1985, p. 908.

1988

"Professor Ayer Defends Bertrand Russell" [reply to Paul Johnson's "When Bertrand Russell Wanted to Bomb Russia" which appeared the previous week]. *The Sunday Telegraph*, 4 Sept. 1988, p. 13.

"The Tenability of Russell's Early Philosophy" [moderator of discussion with several panelists]. *Russell*, n.s. 8 (1988): 232–46; also published as *Antinomies and Paradoxes: Studies in Russell's Early Philosophy* (Hamilton, Ont.: McMaster U. Library P., 1989).