

# Bibliographies/archival inventories

## The finding-aids of the Russell Archives

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### I. THE PHYSICAL ARRANGEMENT OF THE RUSSELL ARCHIVES

There are 346 feet of documents in the Russell Archives, divided into Archives I, II, and Recent Acquisitions. Archives I and II are shelved on their own in large, fire-resistant cabinets. The archival boxes comprising the two archives are clearly distinguished from one another, as are the embargoed boxes. On the whole, similar classes in the two archives are not shelved together. In addition to the archives purchased from Lord Russell and his Estate, we have acquired a large quantity of original, photocopied or microfilmed material from other sources. The smaller files are housed in metal filing cabinets, the larger ones in archival boxes in the large cabinets.

All of the documents of Archives I and II have a document number. This facilitates scholarly citation and our refiling. Since both archives have been microfilmed, one can go directly to and from the microfilm and the files. The number has six digits: in the case of Archives I the first digit is always "o"; in the case of Archives II it is always "1". The Recent Acquisitions have an accession number written on their filing folders and are filed in that order. The full archival call number includes a three-digit class number. This number is preceded by an asterisk which is read as "class". See issues of *Russell* for 1979 and 1980 for the schedule of classes in Archives II.

The physical arrangement of some of the uncatalogued classes—e.g. the Miscellaneous Correspondence (\*720) of both archives—is alphabetical. Such files constitute, in effect, their own index to correspondents. The chronological order of the manuscripts has a similar function for chronologically minded researchers into Russell's writings. This is especially useful in the case of Archives I, whose catalogue listing of the manuscripts lacks the fine tuning of the subsequent eighteen years of

archival control and bibliographical and (now) editorial discovery. Indeed, the only group of documents whose physical order does not facilitate research is the Recent Acquisitions. Even here the internal arrangement of a given file may help. There is, of course, no substitute for a proper catalogue of all the manuscripts.

The two archives and other acquisitions are thus shelved separately, with the following exceptions. The microfilm print-outs of the letters to Lady Ottoline Morrell are boxed and shelved just after the original letters from her in Archives I. (The few originals to her in Archives I are not integrated with the print-outs, and the few from her that came with Archives II are housed in sequence in \*710 in Archives II.) The greeting cards of the two archives, with few exceptions, do not overlap in dates and are shelved in one sequence. The addenda that arrived between the two archives are, for the most part, integrated with Archives II.

### II. THE CATALOGUES OF ARCHIVES I AND II

There are comprehensive catalogues of both Russell Archives. The original archives were sorted and listed by a team hired by Lord Russell's accountant and literary agent, Anton Felton. The team, under the guidance of Miss P. M. Fisher, lately of the British Museum archival staff, and the management of Barry Feinberg, spent nearly a year and a half on the project. Their work culminated in *A Detailed Catalogue of the Archives of Bertrand Russell*, edited by B. Feinberg, D. Ash, R. Kasrils and myself (London: Continuum 1 Ltd., 1967). The purpose of this 343-page book was to sell the papers. 300 copies were printed for sale at £14. However, McMaster's University Librarian at the time, William Ready, was already interested in the papers by the time of the *Catalogue's* publication late in 1967, and its chief use has been to inform researchers of the archives' contents. Recognizing the *Catalogue's* value, Ready bought several dozen copies to sell to interested parties. Half-a-dozen copies remain. The book has often been seen in booksellers' catalogues, and one was advertised in Toronto last year for \$100.

The Feinberg *Catalogue* reports the organization of the first archives by the team that sorted them. Although the classification system employed in the *Catalogue* looks very different from that used at McMaster, the differences are more formal than substantial, and the *Catalogue* has been of considerable service since the arrival of the papers here in 1968. However, there are errors in some of the entries, and there is an imbalance between the document-by-document listing of much of Classifications I and IX and the fact that the number of letters exchanged and extant is not provided in Classification VI 1 (General Correspon-

dence). For example, Arthur G. Tansley is said to have corresponded with Russell between 1894 and 1954. A check of the files reveals only one letter in 1894, one in 1895, and one in 1954—all from Tansley. The valuable publishing correspondence (VIII) is merely summarized, and Russell's library—which did not arrive at McMaster until 1978—is represented only by its highlights (p. 133). The index to the *Catalogue* is inadequate. The many names in the General part of the Personal Correspondence (VI 1) were not included if the name was not already in the index. This means that researchers and staff must, in effect, check two indexes (VI 1 being arranged in alphabetical order).

The fine sifting and modified reclassifying carried out in preparation for the microfilming of Archives I slightly lessened the reliability of the catalogue. However, the continued serviceability of this widely available tool is recognized.

The recently completed *A Detailed Catalogue of the Second Archives of Bertrand Russell*, by Carl Spadoni and myself, with the assistance of many others, is (if I may say so myself) a more professional compilation. It runs to 460 typeset pages, but has not been published. A photocopy is available for consultation in the Russell Archives and the office of the Bertrand Russell Editorial Project. Letter totals for individual exchanges are always given, except for classes like \*320 (World Affairs) whose arrangement is chronological. Here an economical approach is taken, and a correspondent is listed only the first time his name appears in a file. A detailed account is thus given in a relatively short space of a large number of files and their documents. The classes are further opened up to the user by individual contents notes to each class. The whole is tied together by an Introduction and a comprehensive Index running to 77 pages in three columns and comprising 14,000 names. It should be mentioned that some classes, because of their relatively low-grade contents, were left uncatalogued but were sorted, numbered and filmed. Their alphabetical order facilitates research.

The later *Catalogue* is linked very closely to the documents as shelved and microfilmed at McMaster. The document numbers are given at the head of each class, and they are stamped on the documents themselves. A document that becomes separated from its folder (which alone bears the class number) can be refiled where it belongs by consulting the **Table of Document Numbers** on pp. ix-x. The table also shows how many documents there are in each class.

It should be noted that the classes into which Archives II are divided are not always identical to those of Archives I. The political sections are too large and numerous for that, and respect has to be accorded, where due, to the arrangement bestowed by provenance. The classification scheme has sufficient flexibility for this.

### III. THE BIBLIOGRAPHY

A major part of the Russell Archives is the collection of books and pamphlets written or contributed to by Russell, and the periodical articles by him or reporting his speeches and interviews with the press. The Russell Editorial Project, for instance, is dependent upon this collection of journal and magazine articles even if a manuscript is available. Several thousand items are involved. Just as the *Catalogues* give us bibliographic control over the original documents, so the ever-growing *Bibliography of Bertrand Russell* is the controller of much of this collection. It is also the source of the information that has enabled us to acquire photocopies of the writings that did not accompany the archives. They are in great demand by researchers, who view the Russell Archives not merely as a repository of Russell's manuscripts and letters, but rather as a centre for the study of all aspects of his life and thought. There are five loose-leaf binders listing his periodical contributions, including reprints. There is a sixth binder containing copies of the full bibliographical descriptions of Russell's books. Some sections of the *Bibliography* are due to be completed this year. It will itself be thoroughly indexed. For example, all titles of books, articles and other writings by Russell will be indexed, as well as the journals in which his writings appeared. The *Bibliography* notes whenever a published writing is available in manuscript, typescript or proof in the Archives or in another location. File numbers are always provided to facilitate research by the Russell Editorial Project and retrieval by staff. Conversely, the files containing the manuscripts are annotated with the date of first publication. As the *Bibliography* nears completion, it is our intention to annotate the files of photocopies and manuscripts with the section letters and item numbers used in the *Bibliography*.

### IV. OTHER FINDING-AIDS

In addition to the book-catalogues of the first and second Archives and the bibliography, there are a number of other finding-aids to the books, documents and their contents. The first items to be discussed are those acquired independently of the Bertrand Russell Estate. Since this material is already extensive and will continue to grow, it might well be referred to as "Archives III". Such items are currently called "Recent Acquisitions".

The Recent Acquisitions are first recorded in order of accession. A sheet is devoted to each document, or group of documents. Besides the basic identifying features, we note the provenance, date of acquisition,

and any restrictions on use. The documents are filed in accession number order, with the exception of very large groups like #467 (Lady Constance Malleon) and #70 (George Allen & Unwin). Access is principally through card indexes. There are separate indexes for **Correspondents** (in alphabetical order); **Manuscripts, Typescripts and Proofs of Russell's Writings** (in chronological order); **Unpublished Works by Others; Published Works** (such as rare pamphlets); **Miscellaneous**; and **Ex Libris** (books formerly owned by Russell). There is a **Check-list of Recent Acquisitions Held on Microfilm**.

To keep scholars up to date, lists of recent acquisitions have been published in *Russell* since the journal's inception. For manuscripts by Russell, see the old series, nos. 1, 8, 12, 14 and 37-40. For correspondence, see the old series, nos. 2-7, 9-11, and 13, and the new series, vol. 1, no. 1. We shall soon publish a new update of the manuscript accessions.

Two of the major correspondences have been indexed selectively for the needs of the Russell Editorial Project: those with **Alys Russell** and **Lady Ottoline Morrell**. The former index comprises a box of cards and the latter a full tray. The emphasis in the indexing is on Russell's writings and the people he remarks upon. Although these indexes were compiled by the Russell Project, they are available for consultation by other researchers in the Russell Archives.

Published materials fall into several categories: Russell's Library, the Supporting Library, Theses, Pamphlets by Russell, Russell's Periodical Writings, Works Russell Contributed To, and Secondary Literature.

Russell's Library is completely catalogued. Handiest for users are the two computer-produced **Book-Catalogues** of the brief records held in the University Libraries Circulation data-base. One catalogue is arranged by main entry and the other by Library of Congress call number. Since the volumes are shelved as Russell had them arranged in his home, both book-catalogues contain the Russell Library shelf number. There are also cards containing the full cataloguing record, interfiled with cards for the hundreds of "bound with" pamphlets and offprints. The Russell Library shelf number is written on these cards. Finally, there is the **Original Check-list** of Russell's Library, as I recorded it for Russell's agent in May 1967. This list is superseded except for the information it provides on where in Plas Penrhyn the various parts of the Library were shelved. A published guide is available in Carl Spadoni and David Harley, "Bertrand Russell's Library", *The Journal of Library History*, 20 (Winter 1985): 25-45.

The **Supporting Library** is represented by similar tools. There are the two computer-produced book-catalogues of the brief records held in the

Circulation data-base. There are also four drawers of cards containing full cataloguing records. These were closed in 1974; from that time access is through the University Library's microfiche catalogue. There is a separate group of shelves for dissertations and theses. The holdings appear also in Spadoni's **Check-list** in *Russell* (n.s. 4 [1984]: 289-301) of 202 dissertations and theses. We keep track of **Addenda** to this list, and have eight at the time of writing.

Miscellaneous check-lists of printed materials include **Russell's Pamphlets and Leaflets** (shelved separately); **Books Contributed to By Russell**; and a **Secondary Bibliography** (on cards), compiled chiefly from the several drawers of photocopied writings about Russell; **Pamphlets and Leaflets in the Russell Archives**; and **Periodicals in the Archives**. The last two lists are devoted chiefly to materials that came with the original purchases. Both include a number of rarities.

There is a two-drawer card **Index of Works Referred to by Russell**. This index covers his published writings. It is not absolutely inclusive, but has considerable practical value.

An incomplete index of limited utility is the **Chronological Index to Russell's Correspondence**. It covers not only correspondents' names but also the subjects discussed in the letters. There is a separate page for each day on which Russell was sent a letter, or on which he wrote one. The index spans 1884-1913, but only the first twenty years are at all comprehensive.

New finding-aids are currently being constructed, and old ones revised or expanded. Since completing the *Catalogue of the Second Archives* we have catalogued two classes in Archives I that had never been catalogued—\*410 (Publishers' Correspondence) and \*740 (Invitations). I am in the midst of indexing \*750 (Russell's Dictation). This latter task is an experiment in indexing for major topics as well as recipients. The ideal finding-aid would be a single, machine-readable data-base of all the discrete bits of information and combinations thereof that researchers could desire, with precise document location. In the imperfect world of the present, however, the researcher can use the above finding-aids to identify the documents he needs to study in depth. An experienced staff is always available to demonstrate what selection of finding-aids might best serve a researcher's purpose.