

The text of Rex v. Bertrand Russell has a curious history. The relevant documents are preserved in the Archives. Russell's Ms, written on 3 June 1916, is heavily revised, and there exists a corrected carbon of the Ts. As speeches are apparently not read in English courts, Russell had to paraphrase his text as he spoke at the trial. Besides making the points he had prepared, Russell used the occasion to answer the prosecutor's arguments. Yet in addition to Rex v. Bertrand Russell, there is a further document purporting to be his actual speech, a 7-page mimeographed Ts. It is mostly Russell's prepared text, but it neglects the corrections on the carbon; perhaps the mimeo was based on the top copy of the Ts. Near the end, however, the judge's remarks are inserted, but they and Russell's text differ

in spots from both the Ts and Rex v. Bertrand Russell. It would appear that at least the gist of the judge's remarks were worked into a copy of Russell's prepared speech. The alternative is that Rex v. Bertrand Russell is an unreliable transcript. The final document concerns the concluding paragraph of Russell's defence. The passage quoted in No.16 of The Tribunal was not taken directly from any of the above-mentioned documents, but from a single -page Ms which was intended as a postscript and to be printed as a leaflet (undated letter to Catherine E. Marshall [1916]). The last half is marked off and only it was printed. Most of it is exactly what Russell wrote at the end of the corrected carbon, with three new sentences at the beginning. The first half of the Ms was never printed. The preparation of a critical or variorum edition of the text of the whole speech would be a fascinating exercise in editorial scholarship. Perhaps, if readers write in and demand it, it will be done. - K.B.