

# Supplement

## News from the Russell Editorial Project

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### SOME IMPLICATIONS OF THE MAJOR EDITORIAL GRANT

News that the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada had agreed to fund the Project to publish *The Collected Papers of Bertrand Russell* was received at McMaster at the end of March 1980. The grant is for five years and the amount is \$1,800,000. Since July the grant has been in effect and all of us concerned with the Project have been able to use the resources to work with renewed vigour and increased efficiency. The award was the only one in Canada this year under the classification of major negotiated editorial grants.

This award marks the end of a long period during which the conception of the Project first emerged and progressed to the stage where we could present a lengthy proposal to SSHRC. As *Russell* readers know, the Project was conceived over a decade ago by Professor John G. Slater and Dr. Kenneth Blackwell. Both men designed the early stages of the Project entirely on their own. From 1977 on the administration of McMaster has taken an active role. Under the guidance of Dean Berland, the Editorial Board was increased by late 1977 to include Professors Nicholas Griffin, Andrew Brink and Richard Rempel.

By the beginning of May 1979, after we had worked out a design for twenty-eight volumes, the editors were given permission by SSHRC to proceed with a full proposal. We had until 1 July to write, typeset and print the proposal upon which the decision for a site visit would be made. Thereafter we faced long waiting periods while the various stages of assessment were conducted by SSHRC. It was not until early January 1980 that Ottawa informed McMaster that a team of site visitors would come to meet with us and the appropriate administrative officials on 24 and 25 January. The vis-

iting assessors were Professors W. V. Quine from Harvard, Peter Stansky from Stanford and S. P. Rosenbaum from Toronto. Professor Jack Warwick of York was the Chairman and Dr. Kayla Hoffman of SSHRC the Secretary. After the site visit was over, we still did not know what decision SSHRC had made until late in March, when we received a telephone call from Dr. Hoffman informing us that a formal notice of award was on its way.

The size of the grant and the fact that we were singled out by SSHRC last year have imposed heavy responsibilities upon us. Our scholarly obligations were to produce ten volumes in five years, a formidable task by any reckoning. By the fall of 1981 we hope to have two volumes of camera-ready copy in the hands of Allen & Unwin, Russell's traditional publisher and the firm which has agreed to publish the *Collected Papers*. They are Volume 1, *Cambridge Essays: 1888–99*, edited collectively by all Principal Investigators; and Volume 7, *Theory of Knowledge: the 1913 Manuscript*, edited by Professor Elizabeth Ramsden Eames and Ken Blackwell. Volume 12, Russell's personal, fictional, political and social writings for the years 1902–14 could well be sent off to Allen & Unwin early in 1982.

After Volume 1, the volumes will be divided into two series. One series will be devoted to Russell's philosophical and logical writings, i.e., his technical achievement. The other will be devoted to his more popular, but equally important, achievement as a liberal individual seeking to make known his views on virtually every problem of human life. While a major section of each volume in what may be termed the social issues series will be political, other sections—on religion, marriage, literature, famous personages, etc.—will be found within volumes as these subjects dominate his attention. Both series will be arranged chronologically, as this is the one chance to present Russell's writings developmentally. Readers of the technical series will thus be enabled to study his ideas as they developed in the overlapping areas of philosophy, logic and the foundations of mathematics. Russell was a philosopher whose thought constantly evolved: changes in different areas of his thought are often closely connected in ways that escaped his contemporaries and, in many cases, subsequent historical scholarship. The presentation, in a single series, of the complete range of his philosophical thought outside of his readily available books will permit these interconnections to be seen much more clearly. In the non-technical series, readers will be provided with the opportunity to see how all of Russell's value-related views developed. For example, his views on politics are often found in essays not specifically political. This comprehensive scheme may enable scholars to detect a greater unity in Russell's views than has hitherto been the case, and apparent inconsistencies may come to be seen rather as stages in his development.

As work develops in the two "streams" of Russell's papers, Griffin and

Slater will take primary responsibility for the technical volumes while Brink and Rempel will concentrate mainly on the non-technical volumes. But each editor will continue to play some role in the work for each volume. As Textual Editor for the whole edition, Ken Blackwell will have a pivotal role in all volumes. This system of cooperation and division of labour has, so far, been the successful way to proceed. Our group, in so far as it follows any model, has tended to function cohesively as a democratic collectivity with each deferring to the specialized skills of the others.

Over the last four years of the grant the following volumes are projected for completion:

1982	Volume 12	Personal and Political Writings: 1902–14 (Brink and Rempel)
	Volume 8	Philosophical Papers: 1914–18 (Slater)
1983	Volume 13	The Rights of War: 1914–17 (Brink and Rempel)
	Bibliography	(Blackwell [and Rujala])
1984	Volume 2	Philosophical Papers: 1896–1903 (Griffin)
	Volume 3	Towards <i>The Principles of Mathematics</i> (Griffin)
1985	Volume 9	Philosophical Papers: 1919–26 (Slater)
	Volume 14	Revolution and Reconstruction: 1917–20 (Brink and Rempel)

To inform Russell scholars of our work and to seek help on many of the questions which will arise, we shall publish a newsletter as a supplement to *Russell*. Of particular importance to our Project will be the notes and queries section entitled "Perplexities", written by Dr. Margaret Moran, one of our Research Assistants. Her first perplexities are contained elsewhere in this newsletter. Responses to her inquiries will assist us greatly in identifying obscure persons and quotations, as well as in providing clues on the dating of some manuscripts. In addition, we hope that readers of *Russell* will not hesitate to send in general suggestions and contributions on any aspect of our work. In keeping with the cooperative approach which has characterized our Project, the newsletter will be edited by a committee composed of Diane M. Keress, Sheila Turcon, Margaret Moran and Richard Rempel. We will give an account of the Project's progress, detailing both our accomplishments and frustrations. In the next issue Diane will explain in some detail the distinctive technological features for the production of the edition. Other articles will appear relating to the research and other questions directly connected with the Project.

The released time for the editors, the hiring of extra staff, the ability to

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pay appropriate consultants, the establishment of a production department and the publication of a newsletter are some of the benefits of the grant. The next five years should see us meeting our scholarly obligations.—R. A. R.