

Bertrand Russell, *Philosophical papers 1896-99*, edited by Nicholas Griffin and Albert C. Lewis. Volume 2 of *The Collected Papers of Bertrand Russell*. London/Boston/Sydney/Wellington, Unwin Hyman, 1990; available from Routledge, London.

Reviewed by

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I once heard an undergraduate philosophy instructor seriously proclaim that Bertrand Russell's reputation was so great that, if he chose to scribble notes on bathroom tissue, any distinguished philosophical journal to which he might submit those scribbles would publish them forthwith and without question. Something of the sort has come to pass. It is also popular opinion that Russell could write a paper straight through, without having to make corrections. While this may have become true through many decades of practice on Russell's part, it was certainly far from true for the pre-*Principia* Russell who had barely finished his studies at Cambridge when the materials included in the present volume were first penned.

This book is the result of a considerable amount of scholarly effort by historians of mathematics, by the secretarial and production staff of the Bertrand Russell Editorial Project (BREP) and the personnel of the Russell Archives at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. It took over a decade for the preparation of this volume; work on it had already begun by Gregory H. Moore and philosopher Nicholas Griffin before I arrived for a one-year stint at BREP in June 1982. After I left, work was taken up again by Moore and Albert C. Lewis, with Griffin providing the continuity during the entire period. Was it worth the effort, the time?

The materials in this volume are divided into four parts. The first contains miscellaneous writings on philosophy of mathematics and philosophy of science, much of it intended for a project developing the "dialectic of the sciences", written during the period from 1896 to 1899 with the intent of presenting a Hegelian system of science that began with general concepts of mathematics and, working from the general to the concrete, to a consideration of physics. Some of these writings were incorporated in revised form into Chapter 4 of Russell's *My Philosophical Development*. Also included are a number of book reviews that had been published during the period, in particular the review of Arthur