Francisco A. Rodriguez-Consuegra, *The Mathematical Philosophy of Bertrand Russell: Origins and Development.* Boston/Basel/Berlin, Birkhäuser Verlag, 1991. 236 pp.

Reviewed by

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This book is a landmark publication, both in terms of its scholarship and the historical value of its appearance. Any serious student of Russell should possess a copy of this brilliant, cogent, and thorough book. Rodriguez-Consuegra is to be congratulated on a fine presentation, and for having the courage and persistence to devote himself to unearthing the sources, influences, and stimulants for Russell's mathematical philosophy. *The Mathematical Philosophy of Bertrand Russell* is highly recommended, both as a careful description of Russell's efforts and achievements, and as an important history of the development of mathematical philosophy in the first quarter of the twentieth century. I agree with Ivor Grattan-Guinness in his preface: Rodriguez-Consuegra has "launched a veritable one-man Armada upon the history of Russell's logical thought" (p. xiv).

The book offers five lengthy chapters. The first concerns "Methodological and Logicist Background." Russell was a determined, eager, and encyclopedic student of his predecessors. The rise of quantificational logic, engineered by Boole, Frege, Schröder, and Peano, provided the genealogy for Russell's achievements. The groundbreaking discoveries of Cantor and Dedekind were inspirational to Russell. This chapter shows how vital these influences are in understanding Russell's goals, methodology, and direction. Logicism, the attempt to deduce mathematics (and covertly knowledge of the external world), from logic was a direct result of the discoveries of Russell's